Crucial vote on Cha-cha today in Senate committee

Story below, COL. 2

Marlboro Man hopes for easier ride in East

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TANAUAN CITY—Burned by multibillion-dollar US lawsuits and hounded by a burgeoning Western anti-smoking lobby, an older, wiser Marlboro Man is hoping for an easier ride through the

MARLBORO/A19

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- **DOJ ready to try Ping case** NEWS/A6
- **RP gains from SARS crisis** BUSINESS/B1

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'Terrorist tag inevitable'

Palace blames MILF for Koronadal bombing, other attacks

PURGE VICTIMS
Alleyne Enriquez, 16, pays tribute to her father Josemarie, one of hundreds of activists the Communist Party of the Philippines executed for being suspected military agents, at the unveiling Saturday of a marker for the victims at the UP Freedom Park in Quezon City. She says her father, who was last seen when she was a year old, would have joined the jamming sessions of her all-girl band if he were still alive. Relatives, friends and survivors also lit candles to honor the dead. JOAN BONDOC

By Carlito Pablo, Martin P. Marfil and Aquiles Z. Zonio

BRANDING the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) a terrorist organization has become "inevitable" following the May 10 bombing in Koronadal City in South Cotabato that killed nine people and wounded 41 others, presidential chief of staff Rigoberto Tiglao said yesterday.

Earlier reports, citing military authorities in the province, had erroneously placed the number of fatalities at 13.

The bombing in Koronadal came after the MILF attacks in Siocon town in Zamboanga del Norte, North Cotabato and the twin bombings in Davao City that left 61 dead.

"With the Davao, Siocon and the latest bombing (in Koronadal), personally I think that the tagging of the MILF as terrorists would be inevitable now," Tiglao said.

Tiglao noted, however, that no official decision has been reached by Malacañang.

US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone earlier said Washington might declare the MILF, the country's largest Moro rebel group, a foreign terrorist organization. Last year, the United States tagged the Communist Party of the Philippines a foreign terrorist organization, allowing the US government to freeze any assets of the CPP.

The possibility of declaring the MILF a terrorist group was first floated by Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes after the MILF attack on Siocon, Zamboanga del Norte, last week. At that time, Reyes said the matter would be discussed by the oversight committee on internal se-

TERRORIST/A18

SARS fear affects RP jobseekers

By Norman Bordadora

PHILIPPINE consular officials have called the attention of employers in Canada's largest city to reports of alleged discrimination against Filipino workers on account of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), as well as their ethnicity.

Citing reports received by the Philippine Consulate General, Vice Consul Edgar Badajos said some Canadian employers have been refusing to hire Filipinos for fear of SARS spreading in their workplaces.

Romeo Young, Philippine labor officer in Toronto, said that while his office has not received any formal complaint of discrimination in employment from Filipinos, there were unconfirmed reports of Filipino health workers and caregivers not being allowed

SARS FEAR/A17

Magsaysay joining presidential race if . . .

By Leah Salterio

WATCH out, Raul Roco, Ping Lacson, Fernando Poe Jr., Juan Flavier, Loren Legarda and Noli de Castro.

The only son and namesake of the late President Ramon Magsaysay may join next year's presidential race.

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., who wishes to carry on the legacy left by his father who championed the cause of the common Filipino, may be soft-spoken but calls himself a man of action.

"Words that are meek, actions that speak" are his guiding words as he tries to start his quest for the top elective post in the land.

But there's a catch. The 65-year-old Magsaysay will launch his candidacy if President Macapagal-Arroyo will endorse him, according to the senator's son Paco.

"If he is not endorsed by President Macapagal, then my dad can stay as senator until 2007," Paco said.

Paco, however, is worried that his father hasn't figured in any surveys conducted for the people's top choice in the May 2004 elections.

In the Pulse Asia survey conducted from March 29 to April 12, Magsaysay was merely paired with Roco, who had declared that he is running for president. The tandem got 9 percent of the votes of 1,200 respondents:

"If President Macapagal will choose my dad, then he should start working now," Paco said.

Senator Magsaysay, or "Jun," is out to prove that his father's commitment to Filipinos did not die with the former president in the plane crash on March 17, 1957.

"If you will ask us if we're ready for his presidential bid, we'll tell you we're not," Paco said. "If it happens, it happens. If the people don't want him to become president, then it's okay."

Paco said his father may run under the independent banner once endorsed by Ms Macapagal.

MAGSAYSAY/A19

Crucial vote on Cha-cha today in Senate body

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Christine O. Avendaño

THE SENATE committee on constitutional amendments is likely to vote today in favor of a constituent assembly as the mode for amending the Constitution, the chair of the counterpart committee in the House of Representatives said yesterday.

But a senator, who asked not to be named, said any resolution calling for a constituent assembly in which the Senate and the House would hold joint sessions to amend the Constitution would surely lose at the committee level. The senator said it was unlikely that the majority vote needed to pass the resolution in the 14-member committee would be met.

"As matters stand, those who oppose the constituent assembly need only one more vote to defeat the proposal, while those who favor it need three additional votes," the senator said.

If it fails to get at least eight votes in the committee, the House concurrent resolution calling for a constituent assembly will not prosper in the Senate, the source said.

The members of the committee are Senators Joker Arroyo, Robert Barbers, Manuel Villar, Ramon Revilla and Francis Pangilinan for the majority, and Senators Edgardo Angara, Tessie Aquino-Oreta, Rodolfo Biazon and John Osmeña for the minority.

The ex-officio members are Senate President Pro Tempore Juan Flavier, Majority Leader Loren Legarda and Minority Leader Vicente Sotto III.

Western Samar Rep. Eduardo Nachura, chair of the House committee on constitutional amendments, said House leaders were confident that the final score in what he called the "last two minutes" of efforts to amend the Charter would be in favor of a constituent assembly.

Nachura said Angara, chair of the Senate committee, was also

CRUCIAL/A18

Death con seeks home recovery

By Michael Lim Ubac

AFTER successfully undergoing a kidney transplant, one of the so-called "Abadilla 5" is now asking the Supreme Court to allow him to recuperate at home—not on death row.

Lenido Lumanog, one of the five sentenced to death for the 1996 killing of former Col. Rolando Abadilla, argued in a very urgent motion for home stay that harsh conditions on death row at the National Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa City would kill him.

Staying at the National Kidney and Transplant Institute in Quezon City would also make his weak immune system vulnerable to infec-

DEATH/A18

AF 010
AF 010

KITE FESTIVAL
A colorful giant kite is readied for takeoff by one of the participants in a kite-flying festival held on the Luneta grounds. RANDY HORMILLOSA

SARS, Naia 3, Iraq issues boost GMA's popularity

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo is heading for a rebound in her popularity rating after her approval and trust ratings fell flat during the six-month period from November 2002 to April this year.

The latest Pulse Asia survey, conducted on March 29 to April 12, showed that 45 percent of respondents approved of the President's performance, 29 percent disapproved and 26 percent were undecided. Her net approval rating was 16 percentage points. The findings are nearly the same as those in November 2002 in which 46 percent approved of her performance, 26 percent disapproved and 27 percent were undecided.

Equally static were Ms Macapagal's trust ratings. In March-April this year, 38 percent said they trusted the President, 29 percent did not trust her and 33 percent were undecided, leaving her with a plus-9 net trust rating. These ratings were identical with those of November 2002.

It is bad for the President's popularity to be locked in a plateau. It means, she can sink deeper, spelling trouble for her capacity to govern effectively for the rest of her term.

But things appear to be moving her way as signs point to a turnaround in her ratings.

Three key developments are propelling a takeoff—SARS; the Supreme Court decision on Piatco, which is the test case of the credibility of her anti-corruption

SARS/A17

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern and Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: ARMIN ADINA, PDI RESEARCH/05/12/03

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Baguio	Partly cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with rains
Tuguegarao	Partly cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with rains
Laoag	Partly cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with rains
Clark Zone	Partly cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with rains
Calapan	Cloudy with rains	Davao	Cloudy with rains

Gov't seeking access to Naia 3 now

By Carlito Pablo

THE GOVERNMENT is trying to convince the Philippine International Air Terminals Co. (Piatco) to allow airport authorities access to the newly built Terminal 3 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport so the facility could be opened and operated soon.

Presidential Chief of Staff Rigoberto Tiglao said yesterday that Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza has "very informally" asked Piatco for "cooperation in allowing government airport authorities to enter the premises and start work there."

The government is set to take over Naia Terminal 3 after the Supreme Court ruled last week that the five contracts awarded to Piatco to build and operate the terminal were null and void.

Tiglao said Piatco was being persuaded "to allow this (access) in good faith with the Supreme Court decision." Malacañang was still waiting for Piatco's response, he added.

Tiglao noted that by opening the airport, the government could generate "substantial" revenues that could then be used to reimburse the investors who had put money in the project.

The Palace had urged Piatco not to file a motion for reconsideration of the Supreme Court ruling, and instead negotiate for "just compensation" in order to recover its investment.

Piatco said on Friday that it was open to an out-of-court settlement.

"What the President wants is, first of all, to have the airport opened as quickly as possible," Tiglao said.

He said "fixing things (at the terminal) must start as soon as possible . . . for the good of the country."

Tiglao also reiterated that "legitimate investments" in the airport project would be reimbursed.

He said a team from the Commission on Audit was ready to get to work to determine how much Piatco should be "really paid." The COA will hire the services of an international appraisal company to help in the audit.

There have been claims that Piatco's expenses in the project were so bloated that the original contract price of $300 million ballooned to about $600 million.

Tiglao said that further litigation involving the Naia Terminal 3 project, including the reported plan by Fraport AG, the German partner in Piatco of the Cheng family, could delay the opening of the airport.

Asked to comment on Fraport's plan to seek World Bank arbitration, Tiglao said: "We respect their options but we think that they should also respect our option, which is to offer to settle things within the country."

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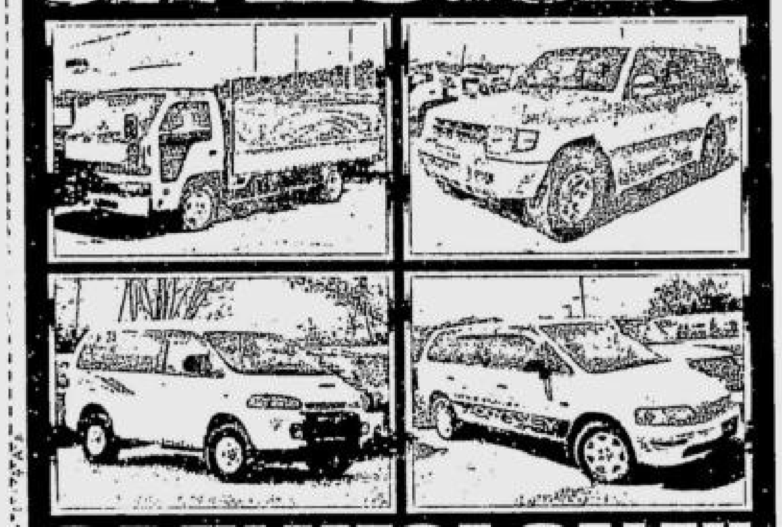

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Harassing texts by abortion foes decried

By Blanche S. Rivera

PROPONENTS of reproductive rights in Congress yesterday accused Catholic lay organizations of harassing them with text messages opposing the "abortion bill" that is pending in the House.

The Philippine Legislative Committee on Population and Development Foundation Inc. (PLCPD), a nongovernmental organization with offices in Congress, said the Catholic groups were spreading misconceptions about House Bill No. 4110, known as the Reproductive Health Care Act.

PLCPD executive director Roberto Ador said the bill's authors, Bukidnon Rep. Neric Acosta and Bulacan Rep. Lorna Silverio, received text messages asking for prayers against the passage of HB 4110.

While he did not name any group, Ador said the messages were "obviously from lay Catholic organizations."

"We are outraged by such a practice since we can discuss [things] in formal sessions and meetings . . . there's no need to resort to that . . . underhanded (tactic)," said Ador yesterday in a phone interview with the INQUIRER.

All sides, including the Catholic church, were heard in the last hearing, he said. The bill has passed deliberations in the committee on health.

The committee is expected to call an executive session to make final revisions on HB 4110 before passing it on to the plenary for further deliberations.

Ador said HB 4110 does not contradict the administration's policy of "informed choice" on family planning.

He said the allegations in the text messages that the bill promotes abortion were "quite foul."

The text read: "Congress will act on HB 4110 or the legalization of abortion on May 13, the feast of Our Lady of Fatima. Your networking for prayers are badly needed. Pls pass."

Ador stressed the HB 4110 explicitly provides that abortion is not a family planning method.

"We should be satisfied with that," he said, adding that the bill seeks only to provide medical care to those who undergo post-abortion complications.

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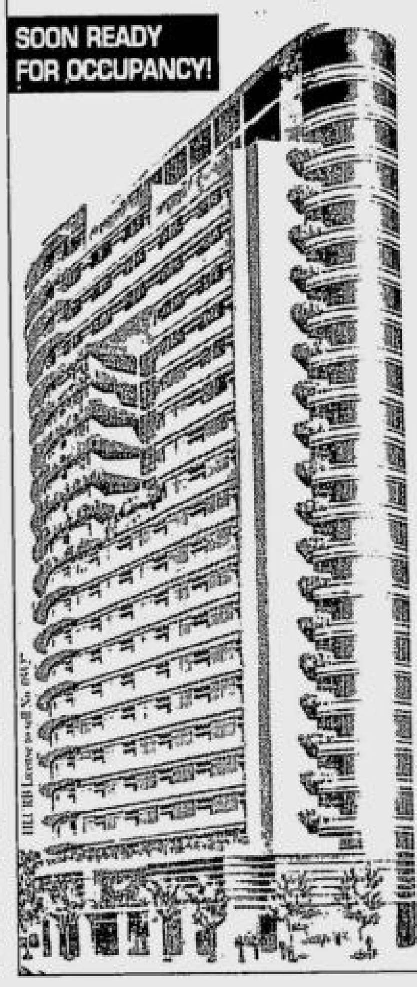

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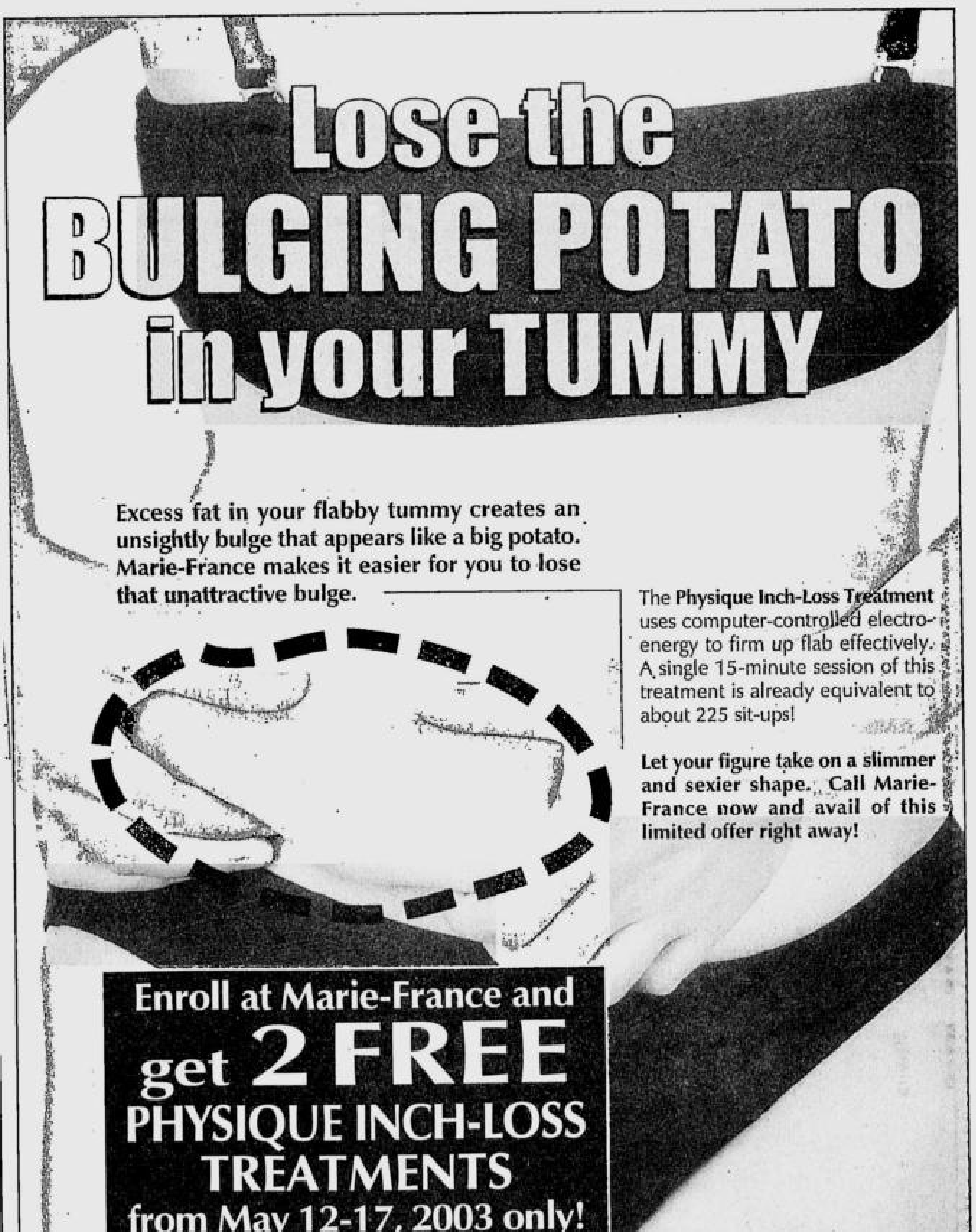

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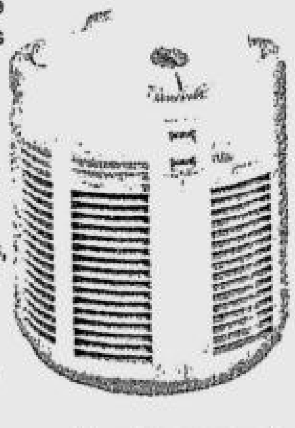

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Hunger strike highlights issues surrounding GMOs

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

THE THREE-week-old hunger strike by four environmentalists opposed to the introduction of Bt corn in the country has focused national attention to the Department of Agriculture's silent approval last year of the pest-resistant crop.

It has also given a dramatic and human face to the scientific and technical issues surrounding the commercial use of genetically engineered crops, or genetically modified organisms (GMOs), purportedly to increase harvest yield and quality.

"The protest at the DA highlights the apparent deliberate neglect of a fundamental tenet of our democratic system, that of the public's right to know, which can only be accomplished via public debate and discussion," said Akbayan Rep. Etta Rosales in a privileged speech delivered in Congress on Monday.

The four hunger strikers, who have been joined by "running priest" Fr. Robert Reyes and NGO worker Ann Laracas, as well as Andrew Haralam and Michael Bengwayan in Baguio, Manny Onalan in Kalinga and hundreds of other farmers across the country, are demanding a moratorium on the commercialization—the planting and sale—of GMO crops, particularly Bt corn which was created by the US-based Monsanto Corp.

Develop resistance

Bt corn produces the naturally occurring *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) protein that makes it high-yielding and pest resistant, particularly to the corn borer. Groups opposed to GMOs, however, warn that the corn borer over time would eventually develop a resistance to the Bt protein, while pollen from Bt corn would contaminate local varieties and result in unexpected mutations that could never be reversed.

Rosales said Congress should conduct hearings on the risks posed by GMOs and the "evidently rushed approval" by the DA of the introduction of Monsanto's Bt corn under the brand name Yieldgard. A moratorium should be ordered pending the conclusion of the congressional inquiry, she said.

The DA, however, is not wont to stop the commercial application of Bt corn, maintaining that there is no scientific evidence to justify a moratorium. Monsanto's Bt corn has been tested in field trials in Bukidnon, South Cotabato, Camarines Sur and Isabela, with reported increases in yield.

Americans against

But it appears that even in the United States, where most GMO crops were developed, there is strong resistance to Bt corn. The American Corn Growers Association (ACGA) has asked the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to reconsider its decision granting Bt corn a re-registration, citing a number of reasons.

The ACGA had warned the EPA as early as 2001 of the negative impact of Bt corn on the market, the most glaring of which is the extremely low price US farmers are receiving for corn because of lost exports to the European Union and Asia.

According to ACGA, US corn exports to the EU dropped from 2.778-million metric tons in 1995-96 to only 6,300 MT in 2000-01. US corn exports to Japan and Taiwan fell by a combined 1.5-million MT between 2000 and 2001.

Amid the global uncertainty about GMOs, the ACGA said countries like China and Brazil are expanding exports of their non-GMO products.

In the Philippines, Sen. Gregorio Honasan has introduced a bill that would make it illegal to release GMOs and other like substances into the environment, with penalties of six years imprisonment and a fine of P500,000.

10 percent

When he filed the bill in 1998, Honasan noted that 98 percent of the 138,410 MT of soybeans imported by the country in 1996 had come from the US. He said since 30 percent of the total soybean acreage in the US is planted to transgenic genetically modified soybeans, then at least 10 percent of the soybeans imported from the US were GMO.

"Soybean is not the only crop that we import in large numbers. Think of the corn that we manufacture into snack foods, cooking oil and animal feeds," Honasan said.

The Greenpeace office in Manila has released a list of 47 products containing GMOs. On the list are popular milk, cereal, processed meat, noodle and snacks brands produced by reputable companies like Nestle, San Miguel Corp. and General Milling Corp.

Speaking in the Philippines in April 2000 at the height of the protests against the field trials of Bt corn, a geneticist from the California State University, Dr. Doreen Stabinsky, said that even in the US, "there has been no testing done on the long-term effects on human health or the environment."

"Just because it's from the US doesn't mean it's safe," Stabinsky had said

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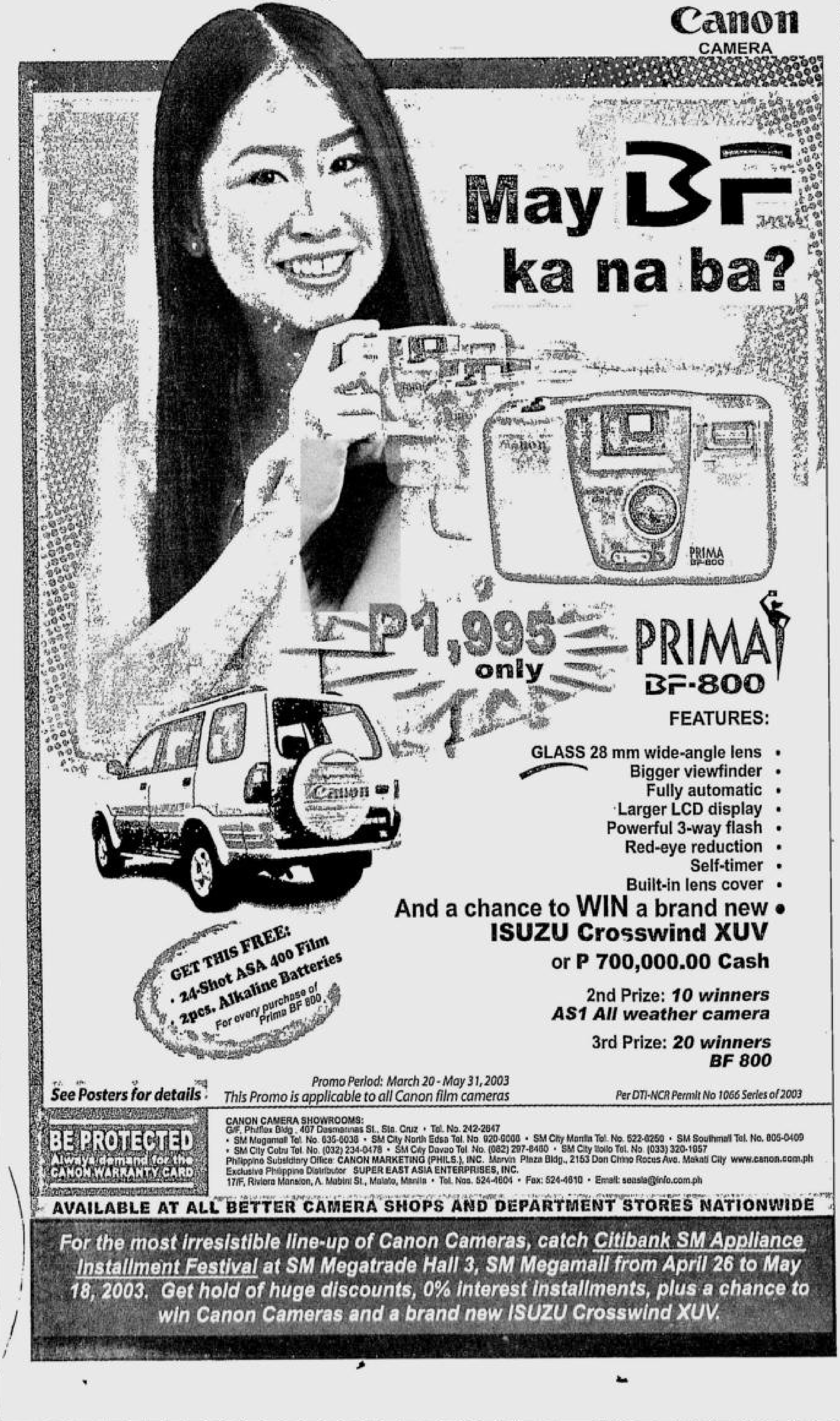
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Finally, 106 farmers own the land they till

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

THE DEPARTMENT of Agrarian Reform has successfully installed 106 farmer-beneficiaries in a hacienda in Moises Padilla town, Negros Occidental, which was the scene of a violent clash between rival groups of farmers last May 3.

Among recipients of the land awards was the family of Alberto Espartero, the farmer who was fatally shot in the clash that occurred when some of the land beneficiaries tried to occupy parts of Hacienda Benito.

It took a special team sent by Agrarian Reform Secretary Roberto Pagdanganan to settle the conflict among the rival farmer groups and the landowner and finally install the farmer-beneficiaries in the 316-hectare hacienda formerly owned by the Miguel J. Lacson Development Corp.

On May 9, the team installed at the 106 farmer-beneficiaries belonging to the Abramsil group and the Crossing Multi-Purpose Cooperative, who were all holders of Certificates of Land Ownership Award (CLOA), including the family of Espartero.

Rolando Mangulabnan, agrarian reform undersecretary for field operations, led the special team which was backed by about 40 policemen and soldiers, and regional and provincial agrarian reform officials.

Espartero, 38, suffered gunshot wounds in the head and body while four other farmers sustained hack wounds when violence erupted between the farmers' groups, after some of the 106 farmers had tried to occupy parts of the hacienda.

Tensions rose again when Enrigue Miguel Lacson, president of MJ Lacson Corp., arrived at the scene and contested the installation process, insisting the DAR had no basis to install the 106 applicants since their CLOA applications had yet to be approved.

The impasse was resolved after the 106 farmer-beneficiaries agreed to be installed "ceremonially" pending approval of their CLOA applications.

Malaysia frees Pinoys caught with ammo

MALAYSIA has released 22 Filipinos who were caught in Malaysian waters with a cache of explosives, the Department of Foreign Affairs announced Sunday.

The Filipinos were turned over to a Philippine consular team and were taken to Sandakan for transport on a ferry to Zamboanga City, the DFA said in a statement.

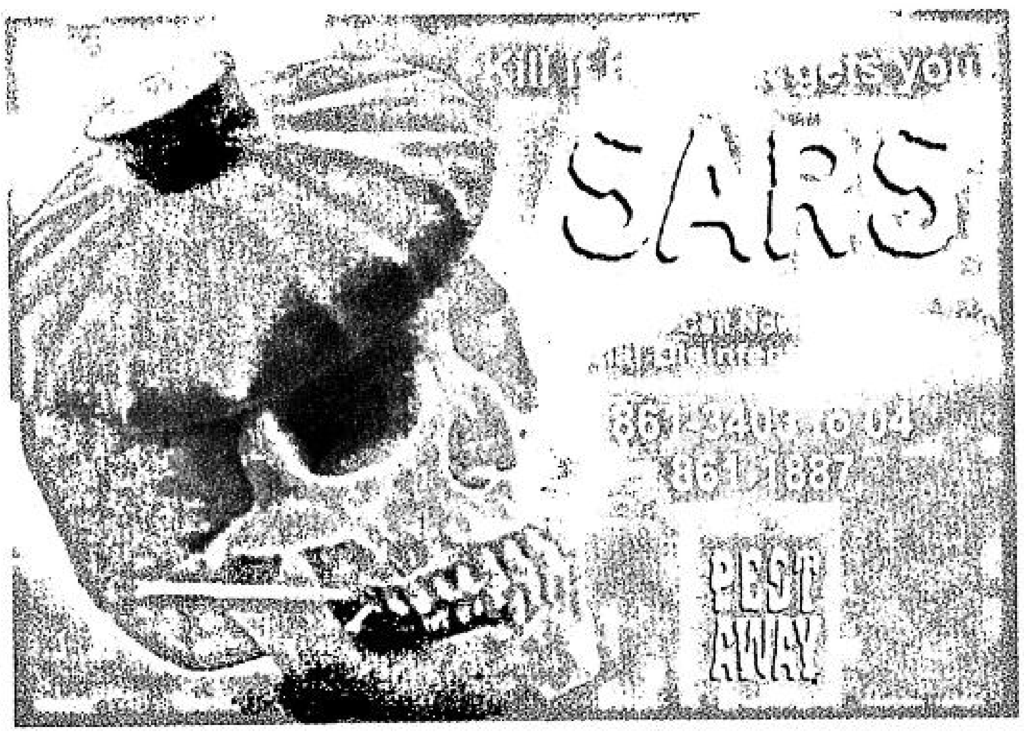
Foreign Secretary Blas Ople thanked the Malaysians for the "prompt action and fair treatment" of the group, the statement said.

The 22 were arrested on April 27 when their boat entered Malaysian waters.

They were found to be carrying a cache of explosives and ammunition, raising fears that they were members of regional terror network Jemaah Islamiah or Muslim separatist rebels.

Malaysian officials later determined that the 22 had been headed for a wedding in the southern Philippines, near the maritime border, and had accidentally strayed into Malaysian waters.

They had brought the explosives and ammunition because it was customary in their village to fire shots in the air during celebrations, the officials explained. *AFP*



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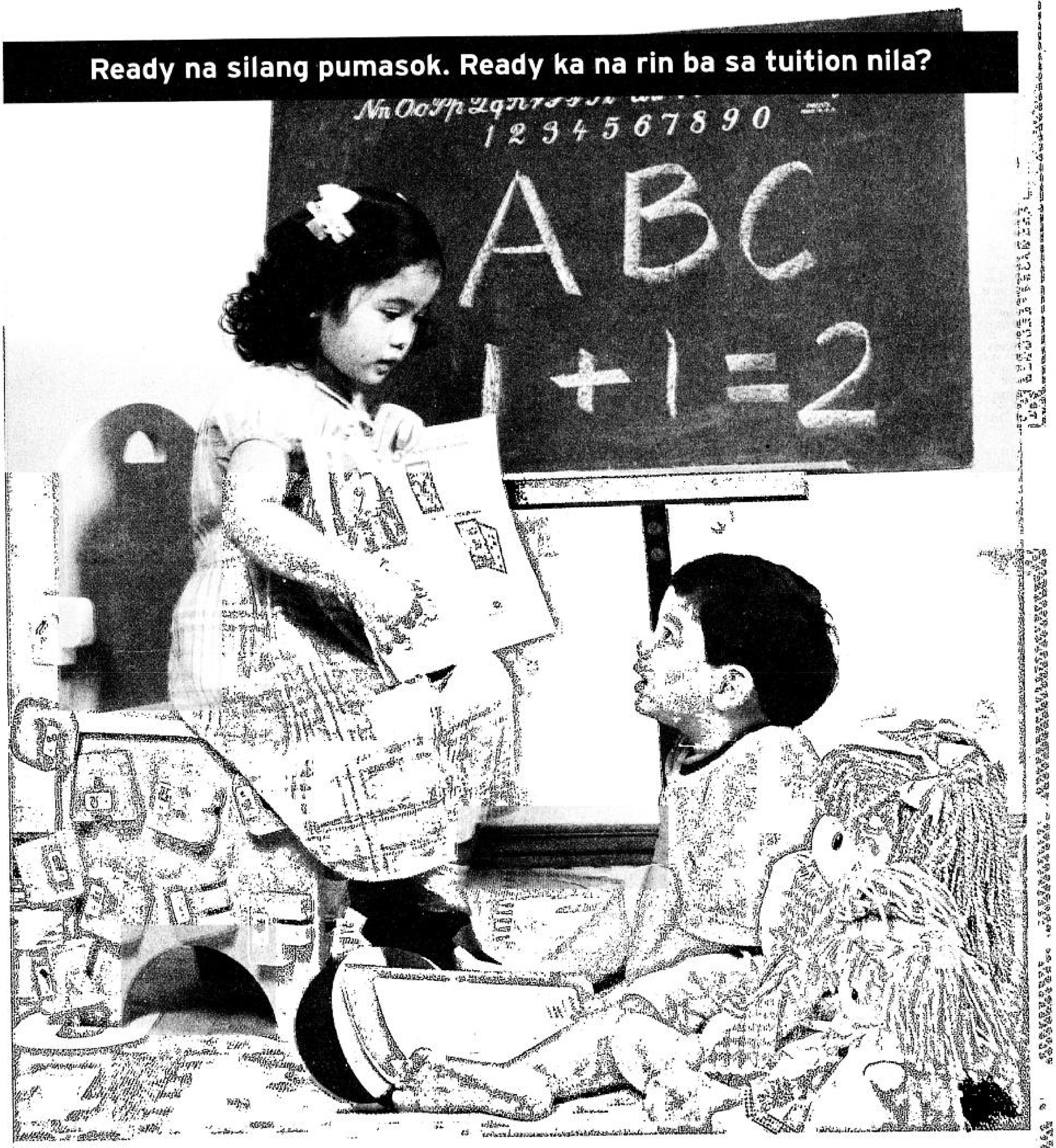
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LDP to 'patch or prune' ranks for 2004

By Christine Avendaño

MOVES are afoot to "strengthen" the opposition Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino party for the 2004 elections, even as some party members pushed for disciplinary action against other members accused of being critical of the party leadership.

Minority Leader Vicente Sotto III said yesterday he knew that some LDP members at the "local level" were planning to file a complaint against two LDP lawmakers for "acts inimical to the party."

"We patch it or prune it," was the thinking among those LDP members urging action against erring party members, according to Sotto.

Sotto did not identify the two congressmen or explain what inimical acts had been committed.

But he said the two LDP legislators have been critical of the party leadership.

Sotto and and two other LDP senators, Teresita Aquino-Oreta and Rodolfo Biazon, dismissed talk that the LDP was deeply divided.

Oreta said the only incident she could think of that could be construed as being a misunderstanding between LDP members and party president Sen. Edgardo Angara was the proclamation late last month of Sen. Panfilo Lacson as the presidential candidate in 2004 of a faction calling itself the "united opposition."

Angara had said the proclamation of Lacson was not LDP-sponsored.

Oreta said that although the Lacson affair was attended by some LDP congressmen, she said the legislators explained that they had in their personal capacities to support a fellow LDP member.

"But it's too trivial to cause a big rift within the party," Oreta said in a phone interview. She said she herself would have attended the meeting had she been in town.

Oreta said that LDP senators and congressmen would be meeting at her home on May 14 to discuss this and other issues like Charter change.

Sotto said the party is trying to strengthen itself so it can unify with other political parties in preparation for next year's national elections.

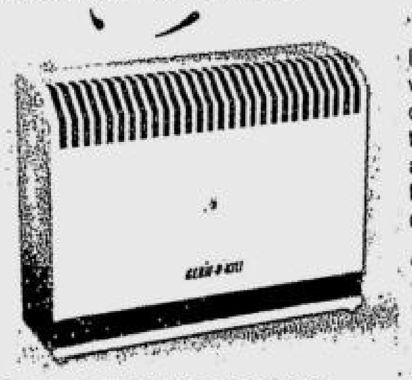
"If we can correct things, we correct them; or if we can't, we take them out of the party," he said.

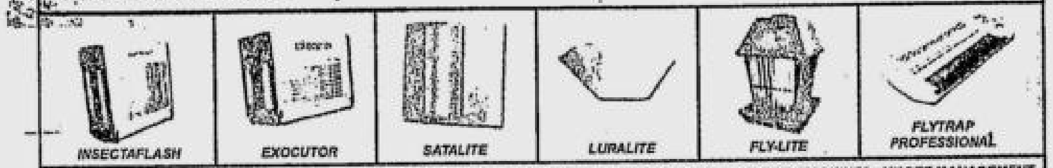
Sotto said he was not aware of any action being planned by party members against Angara.

Oreta said "everybody accepts Angara as president" and that the misunderstandings could be patched up.

"I've seen the party through its worst time and it has stayed on," she said.

Biazon denied the party was falling apart, stressing that there were only "differences of opinion" on certain issues.





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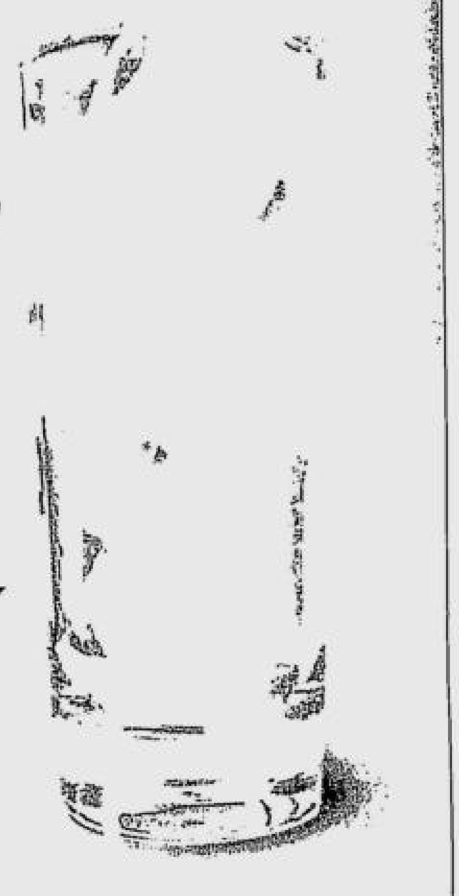

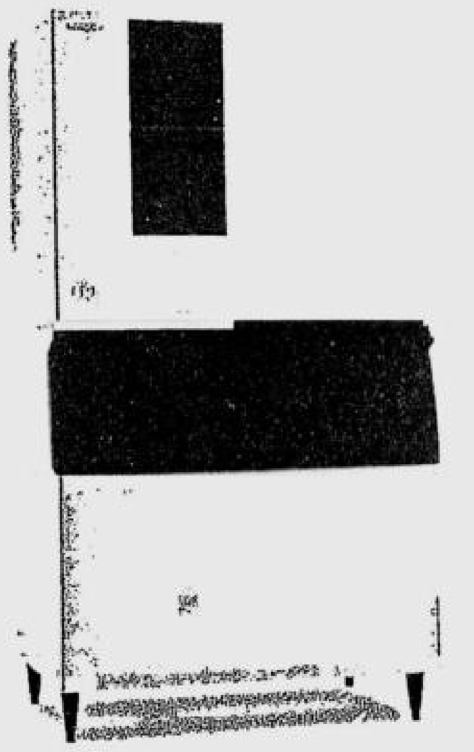

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Danes deny Pinay bride residency

By Tessi Cruz-Larsen
Contributor

COPENHAGEN, Denmark—A 27-year-old Filipino woman was denied the right to stay here after the Ministry of Refugee, Immigration and International Affairs (MRIIA) ruled that her marriage to her Danish pen-pal was "pro-forma," or for convenience.

The woman, identified by the local newspaper BT as Jane Hansen, was reported to have met her husband, Steen Beck-Hansen, after she placed a personal ad in another Danish newspaper in 2001.

Jane arrived in Denmark on October 23 that year, and married Hansen one and a half months after meeting him.

In her personal ad published in Aabenraa Ugeavis, a weekly regional newspaper, Jane wrote that she was "a slim 25-year-old Filipino who is fresh; cheerful and extrovert" and "is looking for a partner, at least 30 to 45 years old who is honest, cheerful, extrovert and has a steady job."

In April 29 last year, Jane was denied a residence permit by the Danish Immigration Service after it ruled that the marriage fell under the "pro-forma" category.

Jane's husband questioned the ruling, saying police officers had coerced his wife during interrogation into admitting that she had married him for the sole purpose of obtaining residency in Denmark.

Danish police subsequently admitted that they had erred in taking Jane's statement. However, in a ruling issued last May 1, the MRIIA stood by its earlier decision.

Among the factors considered was how well they knew each other before entering into marriage.

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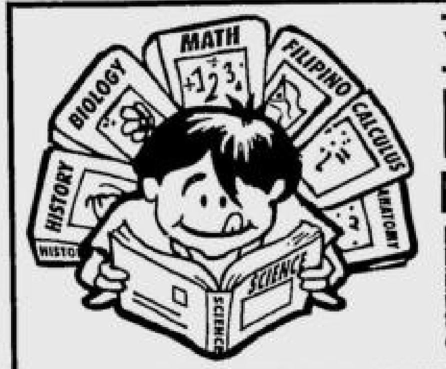

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DOJ team ready to try case vs Ping

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—A Department of Justice task force has been created to prosecute Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson in the event that the Supreme Court rules with finality in favor of reopening the Kuratong Baleleng case.

The task force is headed by Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño, according to Justice Secretary Simeon Datumanong, guest speaker Friday at the induction of the officers of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines-Negros Occidental chapter.

Should the high court deny Lacson's motion for reconsideration of its April 1 ruling reviving the case, Datumanong said, "we are ready."

He said the DOJ had the evidence to convict "beyond reasonable doubt" Lacson and 33 other police officers involved in the alleged summary execution of 11 members of the bank robbery gang Kuratong Baleleng in May 1995.

The revived case will be heard before the Regional Trial Court of Quezon City.

Datumanong said the reopening of the case should not be construed as a ploy to politically discredit Lacson, who has announced plans to run for President in 2004.

Solicitor General Alfredo Benipayo has asked the high tribunal to junk Lacson's motion for reconsideration, saying the victims were killed "in cold blood" and not in a shootout or legitimate police operation.

Lacson, former head of the defunct Presidential Anti-Crime Commision's Task Force Habagat, was tagged as a principal accused in the murders.

In a 28-page comment, Benipayo also advised Lacson and the other co-accused to "face the charges head-on instead of resorting to legal technicalities." *With Michael Lim Ubac*

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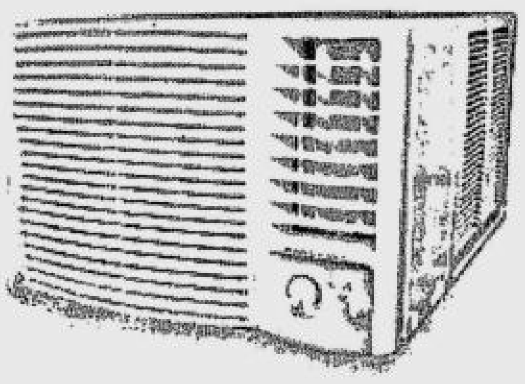

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The Show

EDITORIAL

THE ILLUSTRATION that accompanied last Thursday's front-page cartoon story hit the nail on the proverbial head. The news that first-term senator and broadcaster Noli de Castro had topped the latest Pulse Asia survey of possible presidential candidates—actually, he was in a statistical tie with former education secretary Raul Roco—drew a pointed rejoinder in black and white.

In the word balloon drawn beside the likeness of De Castro, who is known for his "Magandang gabi, bayan" opening line, the artist wrote, "Gabi na, bayan!"

And so it is. It is late in the day for the country's democratic project. Ninety-six years after the first nationwide elections, almost 68 years since the drafting of the 1935 Constitution, nearly 57 years since the birth of the Third Republic, more than 17 years since the restoration of democracy—surely enough time has passed, enough experience has been gained, for the Filipino people to know that mere popularity is not enough qualification for elective office. And yet there are more celebrities in public office today than ever before.

In historian Daniel Boorstin's famous formulation, a celebrity is someone who is well-known for being well-known. In many countries, television is the primary celebrity-making factory, and the Philippines is no exception. Like the plot line of the average situation comedy, the reason is easy to follow. In the assembly lines of TV programming, content-hungry industries like entertainment and news converge.

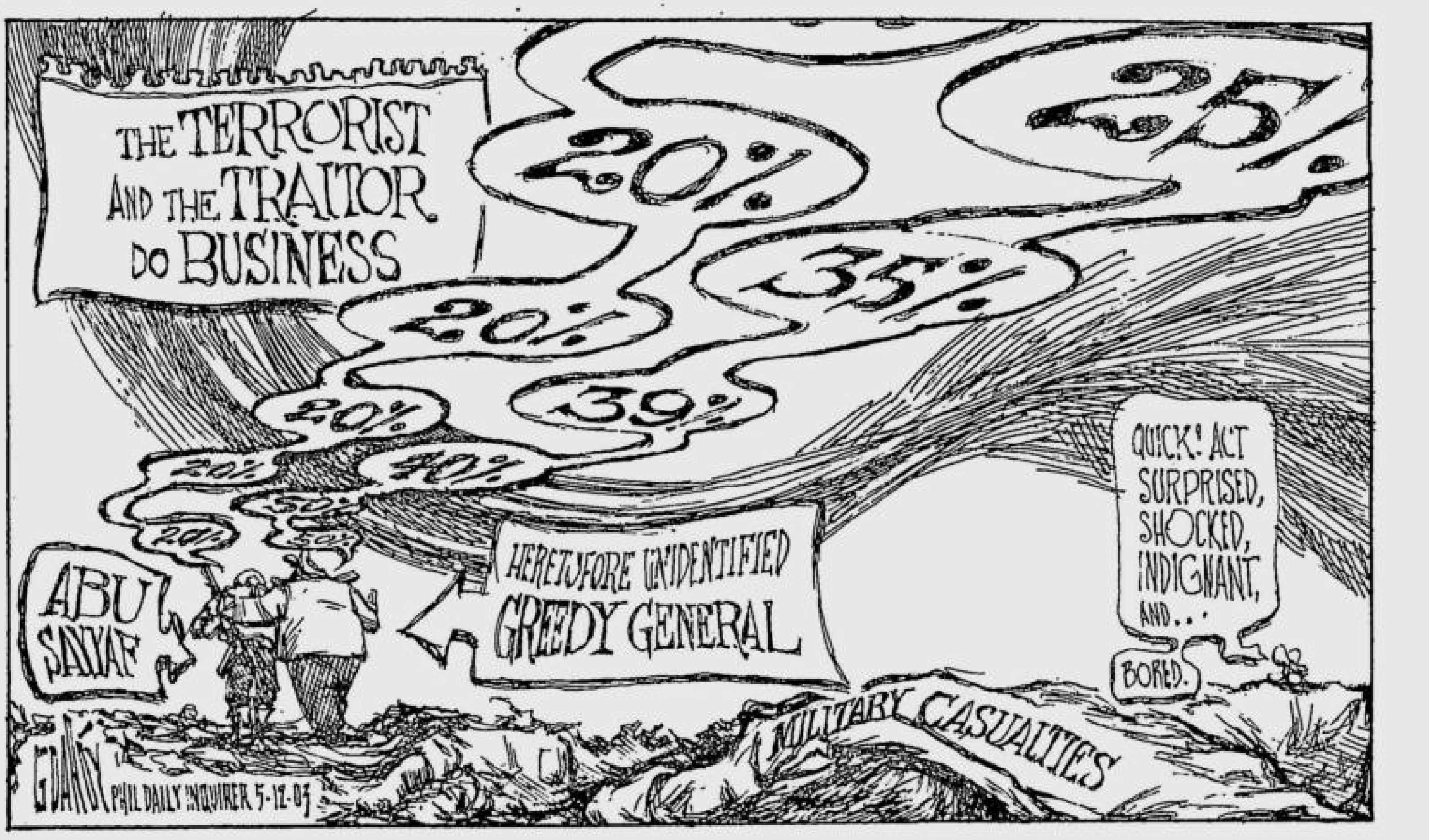
In many cases, the product that comes off the line is pure celebrity: someone becomes well-known because he has appeared on the medium that makes people well-known, and he keeps appearing because he is now known for having appeared before. But because quality and character are at best secondary factors, what this vicious cycle means is that television has become the great equalizer. On TV, the mediocrity is on equal footing with the genius, the rich co-equal with the poor. They are both "content," and candidates for celebrity.

This explains the promiscuous TV-hopping of Rep. Imee Marcos in recent months. She has guested on variety shows, guest-hosted magazine shows, even guest-starred in a popular soap opera. She has also made herself available for news shows, script and sound bite conveniently at hand. Her game plan is obvious even to those who don't play the game. She wants to win a seat in the Senate, and is busy transforming herself from dictator's daughter and Ilocos Norte legislator into something altogether more potent: a celebrity. If she succeeds in her strategy, she will become the first Marcos (excepting the sham presidential election of 1981) to win national elective office in almost 34 years.

The reach and influence of television also explain the spate of well-produced TV commercials featuring Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, which started airing a few weeks ago. Reyes, the most influential ex-general since Fidel Ramos, is capitalizing on his ex-officio role as chair of the National Disaster Coordinating Council to win perception points. His strategy, however, is as transparent as Imee Marcos'. By emulating the advertising career of former defense chief Orlando Mercado, Reyes hopes to position himself for a run for a national office in a year's time.

Television's power to bring in the vote has been proven in spectacular fashion: in the last two elections, TV news anchors topped the Senate race. This explains why candidates and aspirants are ready to do just about anything to get on TV. Sen. Panfilo Lacson, who is casting a moist eye on the presidency, agreed to endorse a liquor in spite of his teetotaling ways, because of the media exposure. Sen. Juan Flavier, another member of the Moist Eye Club, is endorsing a multi-vitamin, for the same unhealthy reason. And so on, ad nauseam.

They all want to be on The Show—our news and entertainment culture, as caught and magnified on the boob tube. It is a shame that, at this late hour, many of us continue to mistake celebrity for political entrée. "Gabi na, bayan!" It is time for us to expect more from our political candidates than sheer name recall.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QUICK! ACT SURPRISED, SHOCKED, INDIGNANT, AND...
BORED.
MILITARY CASUALTIES
GDANS PHIL DAILY INQUIRER 5-12-03

Men of God don't trust Consa

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THANKS be to God, the religious groups are standing up to the politicians, opposing the convening of Congress into a constituent assembly to amend the Constitution. The Iglesia ni Cristo and El Shaddai, both of which count several million followers and which politicians always court for votes, have issued a joint statement against amending the Constitution. Cardinal Sin, a prince of the Catholic Church, although not opposed to amending the Constitution, is nevertheless against Congress doing it. He wants a constitutional convention. Let's face it, the men of God don't trust the present members of Congress. There is good reason for that mistrust, the best example of which is their present headlong rush to a Consa (Constituent Assembly) in spite of the opposition to it of the people they represent.

Clearly, this is a fight between good and evil. If the men of God represent the good, who represent the evil?

For her part, former President Corazon Aquino weighed in with an appeal to members of Congress to "postpone the move," saying it would only serve to further divide the nation.

"I add my voice to those calling on members of Congress to set aside this issue of constitutional change until a more auspicious time and focus instead on finding ways to unite our people," she said.

But Speaker Jose de Venecia, who is the moving force behind the Cha-cha movement, is going for broke. "The Cha-cha cannot wait," he said. For driving ambition cannot wait. The shift to a unicameral parliamentary system, De Venecia said, "will end the perennial gridlock in Congress and [even] the recurrence of Edsa I and Edsa II."

What gridlock? The Philippine Congress has the fastest and most efficient railroad in the world. If it wants to, either house can pass bills in the wee hours of the night even without a quorum, as the Speaker did recently with the passage of the House resolution calling for convening Congress into a constituent assembly to amend the Charter. The present House under De Venecia is very efficient, especially in this Consa (also known as Con-Ass) thing because it sounds so much like what many congressmen are accustomed to doing: kiss ass.

The Senate is no less efficient. Years ago, when Joey Lina was still a senator, it passed Lina's baby, the Urban Development and Housing Act—now better known as "that stupid Lina Law"—also in the dead of night without a quorum. I was then editor in chief of The Daily Globe and had instructed our Senate reporter to watch the proceedings.

He reported that then Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile objected to the proceedings because there was no more quorum. The presiding officer called a recess, during which several senators persuaded Enrile to withdraw his objection. The session was resumed and the Lina Law was passed. That is why that law is stupid; it was passed illegally. Since then, that law, billed by its sponsors as "the ultimate solution to the squatting problem," has worsened the squatting problem a hundredfold and destroyed property rights. So nobody, least of all De Venecia, should talk about any "gridlock" in the present bicameral Congress. If the members want to pass a bill, even illegally, they can do it.

In fact, we already have too many laws, so many that the people, including the lawyers, judges and justices and even the lawmakers themselves, can't keep track of them. That is why some laws contradict one another and the magistrates have a difficult time reconciling the contradictions, thus delaying the administration of justice.

We should reduce our laws instead of passing more of them. That would make our people more law-abiding. If there are too many laws, many of which the people don't even know exist, then more of them would be violated, *'di ba*? Like Gene Magsaysay's "less talk, less mistake," fewer laws, fewer violations.

What will our legislators do to serve what we're paying them if they don't legislate laws?

If the first place, they don't deserve what we're paying them. In the second place, they can repeal the useless and stupid laws (like the Lina Law). So they don't have to meet the whole year. They can be called to a session only when there are enough things for them to do. They should adjourn as soon as they have done what they're supposed to do. That should give them plenty of time to attend to their constituents in the provinces instead of staying in the exclusive villages here.

And they should be paid only when they're in session. That should save taxpayers a lot of money. The government will immediately solve its budget deficit if we can make Congress meet only a few months each year.

This is already being done in many countries, by the way. The legislatures are called to a session only when the secretariat has accumulated enough bills for them to discuss. Since the legislators work seriously, not to grandstand for publicity, they finish their work fast and they adjourn and attend to their constituents. We should do that here, too.

But going back to the Consa. I'm for it on one condition: the Consa should hold its sessions in Hong Kong or in nearby Guangdong province, birthplace of SARS. Why not? Our legislators love to travel, don't they? And they can stay there as long as they like. For once, the taxpayers would be happy to pay for all their expenses—travel, hotel, hospitalization, burial, etc.

Where there's no will, there's no way

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

ONE may of course argue that Gracia Burnham's account of the military colluding with the Abu Sayyaf—indeed of one general demanding 50 percent of the take—is hearsay. She just heard it from the Abu Sayyaf.

But at the very least, the question is why the Abu Sayyaf would have wanted to lie to people it was resolved to kill if no ransom were paid. If the rest of Burnham's account is true—and there is no reason to doubt it—her captors had no sophistication to use psy-war tactics. They were pretty much black-and-white, Allah and Satan, behead first, ask questions later.

At the very most, there are the accounts of the other victims of the Abu Sayyaf, the German hostages in particular, indicating that the Philippine military—or indeed the government itself—was part of the problem rather than the solution. Of course they were referring to the previous government, whose officials they accused of jacking up the kidnappers' ransom demands—often up to three or four times—and pocketing the money themselves. Chief of them being Robert Aventajado, and by inference Erap himself. A scam that could not have been possible without the cooperation of the generals who were prosecuting the campaign, or were supposed to.

It's still the same military there, notwithstanding the change of government. If Burnham's account suggests anything, it is merely that the generals have gone freelance. They no longer need their superiors' permission to go into kidnapping by proxy, nor do they need to share the loot. They can have it all to themselves, minus the loose change they leave the Abu Sayyaf with. But you cannot entirely discount the possibility of a disgruntled general saying one of these days it's not true at all the profit goes entirely to them.

Quite apart from all this, common sense must make Burnham's account believable. How in Allah's name is it possible that an armed might consisting of more than a couple of hundred thousand souls, backed by several thousand American marines, using satellite technology and various weapons of mass destruction, and egged on by a government dedicated heart and soul, such as it has a soul, to wipe out terrorism from the face of the earth, cannot wipe out a group it has repeatedly described as less than a hundred men who are demoralized and on the run? Even if you argue that the Abu Sayyaf was being coddled by the MILF, which Burnham's account suggests as well, it still doesn't explain it. The relative strengths remain breathtakingly disproportionate.

By all means, let us investigate Burnham's charge—for that is what it is even if she herself balks at the suggestion. But while at this, that should be by way of a congressional or senatorial hearing and not a military one. Asking the military to investigate its own is like asking Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to rate herself. That is an exercise in self-flagellation—for the country. The military has just reminded us how it conducts an investigation in the way it has investigated Col. Jovito Palparan, the chief suspect in the torture and slaying of two human rights workers who were investigating human rights violations in Mindoro. Palparan has as much chances of being convicted, or even prosecuted, as GMA has of winning next year's elections. GMA herself has already cleared the military even while presumably ordering it to investigate Burnham's charge.

The only explanation in fact for why the Abu Sayyaf won't go away is that neither the civilian government nor the military wants it to go away. For good reason: The Abu Sayyaf is the best thing that has happened to them. It is the best thing that has happened to GMA. It is the best thing that has happened to the generals.

The rewards for the generals are patent and go well beyond the profit some of them make directly from the Abu Sayyaf's adventures. Of course nice work if you can get it, having a group to do all the work, take all the blame and reap all the punishment, while you make money off them, and some generals at least do have it. But that is not the real worth of the Abu Sayyaf to the military. Its value you see completely literally in the recently approved national budget, which gave P42.6 billion to the AFP as opposed to P10.4 billion for health, when SARS easily qualifies as a far more real terror than the Abu Sayyaf. Without the Abu Sayyaf, and more recently the MILF, that disparity would have drawn more attention than it has.

Without the Abu Sayyaf in fact, Angelo Reyes and Roilo Golez would not have gotten as far as they have. Since 9/11 and GMA's subsequent anti-terrorist posture, they've been shaping the domestic and foreign policies of this country. Reyes is even contemplating running for president.

Without the Abu Sayyaf, GMA's own anti-terrorist posture would have no leg to stand on. Without the Abu Sayyaf, GMA would not have been able to unleash a "strong republic," which makes war and national security, and not peace and human rights, the cornerstone of governance. Without the Abu Sayyaf, she would not have been able to justify the return of American troops to this country, in the guise of "war games," which openly violates the Constitution. Without the Abu Sayyaf, she would not have been able to defend her all-out support for George Bush's invasion of Iraq: Golez's argument at one point was that Saddam's weapons of mass destruction would find their way into the Abu Sayyaf's hands!

The solution to the Abu Sayyaf is not GMA turning more war freak and sending more troops with American help to Muslim Mindanao. It is removing GMA and giving the health department the AFP budget.

You'll be surprised how fast the Abu Sayyaf disappears.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@info.com.ph

Muñoz-Palma boosts Consa

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE DRIVE for Charter change through a constituent assembly (Consa) received a big boost recently when Justice Cecilia Muñoz-Palma, president of the 1987 Constitutional Commission that wrote the present Constitution, was quoted as opining that the nation can go ahead with a "Consa" as there are enough "honest and qualified" members of Congress who can be "trusted" with the task of amending the Charter. She cited specifically Senators Aquilino Pimentel and Joker Arroyo among those who may be expected to prevent any untoward developments in the Consa. I might add that in the House, one can rely on "reliables" like Rep. Arthur Defensor, Oscar Moreno, Clavel Martinez, Eduardo Nachura, Ruben Torres and many more.

* * *

Justice Palma's argument about there being enough trustworthy members of Congress to block any questionable moves on the Constitution recalls the argument of a House major proponent of Consa, Congressman Nachura. In a forum to push Charter change two months ago, Nachura stated that one of the reasons for his opposition to the constitutional convention as a mode for change is that many of the delegates to be elected will likely be the sons, daughters and wives of politicians, who are likely to be very unqualified and needing a much longer learning curve. Whereas, in a Consa it will be the members of Congress themselves who by now know only too well the deficiencies of the Charter. As Nachura put it, "It's better to trust the devil you know than the devil you don't know."

One might add that Senator Pimentel has estimated the cost of a convention to run up to P8 billion, which includes new offices and staff for all the delegates, whereas the Consa members will be utilizing their existing offices and divide their time between legislative and constitutional work.

* * *

Poor Maj. Gen. Romeo Dominguez. There's so much confusion about the identity of the alleged general that Gracia Burnham has linked to cutting a 50 percent deal with the Abu Sayyaf in her book that Dominguez's old case, which the Commission on Appointments settled last year by promoting him to two stars, is once again being raked up in the media.

Recall that Dominguez was the general alleged by some critics in Basilan to have allowed the escape of the bandit group and their hostages despite the military dragnet thrown around the hospital in Lamitan, allegedly in exchange for a valise full of money. To clear the air for investigation, he was relieved of command of the First Infantry Division in Mindanao. The entire military, however, it seems, rose up in protest against the allegation largely because of his solid reputation for honesty and integrity (the military being a small family where everyone knows everyone else's reputation). In fact, to this day I keep meeting AFP officials who have worked with Dominguez, who defend his reputation. Even my husband, with whom he had worked in a previous promotions board, thinks highly of him.

As he explained to the CA last year, Dominguez stressed that that attaché case with money that his subordinate was seen carrying did not come from the Abu Sayyaf in the heat of battle, as alleged, but from the command and it contained emergency money for the troops. The logic is that field commanders always carry money as in remote areas there are no banks to withdraw from in emergencies. By the way, Ms Elbe Dominguez, his wife, is a bank branch manager in Quezon City, not the average very needy military wife.

* * *

Dominguez, now chief of the Northern Luzon Command, is being vilified again because of Burnham's allegation and there is need to straighten out dates, in fairness to everyone. The time of the ransom that the Burnhams' missionary group paid was about January 2002, or over eight months from their Dos Palmas abduction. By then Dominguez had already been replaced by Brig. Gen. Glicerio Sua at the division; his superior, Southern Command Chief Gregorio Camiling, had been replaced by Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu who stayed from Sept. 14, 2001 until May 21, 2002, after which he was replaced by Lt. Gen. Ernesto Carolina who stayed up to Oct. 16, 2003. Thus, the two officials who should clear their names vis-à-vis Burnham's narrative—and I'm confident they can do this—are Sua and Cimatu.

* * *

Recently former Leyte Gov. Leopoldo Petilla, now better known as the husband of three-term Gov. Matin Loreto-Petilla, launched his autobiography, "Passing Through Life." Polding, who began his political career as a senior board member and went on to be three-term governor, now sits on the board of the Philippine National Oil Corp. I found his book delightful and even amusing in many parts, written with such disarming simplicity and candor. The book is fascinating for the myriad insights into provincial life that may now be a thing of the past in our shores, as well as the wheeling and dealing of local politics that this confessed city mouse found so interesting.

* * *

But Petilla also gave unforgettable insights into many national figures through memorable vignettes. One of them involved Imelda Marcos and Ninoy Aquino. He relates that on a visit to Iran, then Senator Aquino stumbled on information that Imelda bought jewelry worthy of a king's ransom two weeks earlier. Securing catalogues of her purchases, Ninoy sent them to Imelda with a note saying "Would you like to buy these?" Imelda called Ninoy up right away, tearfully asking him, "Why are you tormenting me so much?" But Imelda had her revenge. Some weeks later, Ninoy was invited to a black-tie dinner at Malacañang and it was announced publicly that he was to open the dance with the First Lady. As he advanced toward her clear across the hall, with all eyes focused on him, Imelda turned her back on him and left. Ferdinand Marcos told Ninoy he had angered his wife so much. (*More later*)

Voices of discord on HB 4110

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Antonio J. Montalvan II

THE USUAL thing is to say that the bishops of the Catholic Church are interfering in matters that are outside their human experience. But a mammoth rally held in Cagayan de Oro City last April 27 against House Bill 4110, the proposed "Reproductive Health Care Act," exposes that view as an untruth. In fact, the rally was organized by lay people at the helm, representing a broad assortment of professions, social classes and organizational colors. Very few priests came to the rally, it being a Sunday. But just the week before that, when the rally was being conceptualized, the archbishop and the clergy of the Archdiocese of Cagayan de Oro were, in fact, away in Cebu City for their annual presbyterial retreat.

The rally participants, which media people had estimated to have reached about 5,000 in number, were an interesting mix. There were mostly rural folks, many of whom were farmers and fisherfolks. A large group of hinterland people came in three borrowed open bed trucks. These were not the voices of the moneyed, well-heeled elite. This was the hoi polloi. But from the more urban centers came as well a cross-section of various representations of office workers, teachers, doctors, lawyers, retired government workers, youth, Chinays and Chinoys, NGO people of various spectra and what have you.

None of the speakers came from the clergy. As the rally organizers saw it fit, there are other voices that do not dissonate with HB 4110, and these are the voices that the media do not easily pick up. These voices embody views that the bill's pros, including many from the media, do not endow with much relevance. A continuing paradox of Filipino culture is sidelining the voices from the interstices. In fact, the rally's discourses revealed the reality of an interplay of power and money behind HB 4110.

Among the speakers was Rep. Constantino G. Jaraula, of the lone district of Cagayan de Oro, who is senior deputy minority floor leader of the House, and who narrated his own spontaneous experiences about the bill. The first time he read it, he found the bill "very convincing and well-written." What gave him further impetus to like the bill, he recounted, were two provisions that specifically say abortion will not be allowed once it was enacted.

Reading further into the bill, however, Jaraula came to the conclusion that the bill abrogates the rights of parents to their children. But his own keen research into the bill's production reveals an interesting *mise en scene* of politics and power play. Jaraula reveals that powerful advocacies from the US AID, World Bank, International Monetary Fund and other multinationals that provide consultancy and research to 22 government agencies under the acronym Agile, are some of the behind-the-scenes players of the bill. "House Bill 4110 was produced by these advocacies, adapted to the language of the Philippine Congress."

There are 219 members of the House. For many, research is not a forte. Compounding that is the built-in problem of having many committees. Congressmen have to shuffle between many committee meetings. Upon receipt of a bill, there is no longer much time left to read the fine print. But by simply affixing one's signature to a bill, one becomes a co-author. Jaraula forcefully defines his position on HB 4110: "I will never sign that bill!"

In fact, many congressmen have already withdrawn their signatures. Starting with just 14, the signatories grew to 50, then dwindled to 40. Among those who withdrew, in fact, was Rep. Antonio P. Yapha Jr. of the third district of Cebu province. Nothing earth-stirring in that, except for the fact that Yapha is the chair of the House's health committee!

Too often, taxpayers do not know who stands to gain and profit from bills passed in Congress. What they do not know is that there is a strong lobby by the drug and contraceptive industry that stands to lose in the Philippines a $2 million market for their products due to the US AID's reduction of its contraceptive donation from $5 million to $3 million annually. By 2004, in fact, the US AID will phase out its $5-million contraceptive donation totally. Abroad, there is an industry fear that a 1985 US law, the Kemp-Kasten Amendment that banned US aid for financing or supporting abortions abroad could freeze money for all agencies with "reproductive health programs" like Unicef, WHO, UNDP and World Bank.

Another rally speaker, Dr. Rene Josef Bullecer of Cebu, represents a voice that too often is ignored by the bill's proponents. Contraceptives and artificial family planning methods promoted by HB 4110 puts women at risk to cardiovascular diseases and cancer. The International Agency on Cancer has listed the pill as a carcinogen. The 1997 World Conference on Breast Cancer cited prolonged use of the pill as one of the risk factors of breast cancer.

Many rally participants were, in fact, doctors and medical practitioners. One pediatric cardiologist in the audience told me that she has documented cases of congenital heart diseases among infants whose mothers had previous histories of contraceptive use. In fact, this data is not localized but is confirmed by studies done in other countries.

The rehashed line is to say that the Catholic Church is the cause of overpopulation. This monocausal illogic is definitely not empirical and too often cites the already archaic Malthusian reasoning. There are progressive women legislators behind HB 4110. Has it ever occurred to them that the country's poverty can be better explained by social inequality, graft and corruption and inept governance? Shout that out in the streets.

Voices of discords are voices from people who are imbued with, what is universally known as, human dignity.

* * *

Comments to monta@sni.ph

Bring back the Bells of Balangiga, President Bush

COMMENTARY

Dean Jorge Bocobo

YESTERDAY was 20 months to the day since the 20th century ended, its *fin de siécle*, on Sept. 11, 2001, also the first day of the 21st century. Making sense of what has happened to the world since then, (to emerge from the sandstorm of incomprehension), has been hard for the public because most of our leaders and thinkers complain, not explain.

Going forward, bilateral ties and focused regional alliances are critical to rebuilding unity in the emerging world order. I believe this is how the United States sees foreign relations in the coming era—as a series of key relationships with willing allies in each region, freed from the quagmire of the insane UN oligarchy. Given the sheer inconceivability of France, Russia or China ever again having veto power over America, UN Cold War multilateralism is dead, save for purely humanitarian purposes. Live with it or forever gnash your teeth.

Our ties to allies in the coalition are now critical to us. Bilateralism is the middle way between multilateral paralysis and unilateral insufficiency. President Macapagal-Arroyo, apparently saw things this way a long time ago, when she backed the war on terrorism and joined the coalition of the willing. Now we have a place at the round table of the nations that are remaking the peace, security and prosperity of the world. Our presence will be welcome at its councils because we were there on Sept. 11 to register our compassion for humanity and our outrage at terrorism.

Our firm yet quiet voice will be heard about what can and must be done, because Gloria's voice was heard loud and clear with Tony Blair's eloquence and resolve in support of the coalition of the willing, even before the rest of the world joined in Iraq's liberation. We are a full partner in the coalition because we know the ultimate purpose. We share the common goal of a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East and we support it with the treasure of our dedicated men and women, as best equipped as we can make them, with our hands and our hearts and our prayers, if we have nothing else.

In a rare display of bi-partisanship last week, Senate President Franklin M. Drilon and opposition leader Sen. Edgardo Angara closed ranks with a broad center coalition in the Senate to support President Macapagal's proposed humanitarian aid mission to Iraq. The initial deployment will be modest, including 175 medical personnel costing P179 million. I tell you, P179 million will buy a lot of tender loving care from the living angels of the Philippines, for Iraqi children still suffering from 30 years of Saddam Hussein and three weeks of war. I am proud the Philippine flag will add the compassion and warmth of its sun and stars to the ancient lights that ever have watched over the Holy Lands.

When reverent silence falls on Washington next week, and comes the moment of remembrance for fallen Filipino-American heroes in Babylon's eternal captivity, many eyes in America will fall on President Macapagal, the flower of our race, and see the great nation and ally of 80 million Menusas and Sta. Marias and Joseph Hudsons. Four million continental Filipino-Americans will swell with pride and wear with dignity the hyphen of their dual identity. Americans will reach for their geography books and taste the *adobo* of next door neighbors—fellow Americans with beautiful mahogany skins and strange mellifluent voices—who are cardiologists and teachers and brave soldiers.

Much too will America recollect in a catharsis of self-recognition, to revisit the violent events of over a century ago, when our two nations and peoples first met, on the field of battle. The Philippine-American War has not yet truly ended and the destiny promised has not yet been manifested. By the time George W. Bush makes a return visit in September, we shall all know a lot more Philippine-American history. He should study another date—Sept. 28, 1901—and bring back the Bells of Balangiga with him—as a symbol of our new-built friendship and alliance in the 21st century, and an acknowledgement of a history forgotten in the 19th.

GMA's state dinner at Coalition HQ next week should partake of jubilation and thanksgiving with our allies, but Gloria must also report to the people of coalition countries that a coalition member and their fellow human beings in this archipelago are under vicious terrorist attack, and therefore, so are they. Siocon in Zamboanga del Norte; Koronadal in South Cotabato; and Davao are suburbs of San Francisco and Surrey and Sydney as much as Bali. An attack on one, should be an attack on all, or why did we willingly join the coalition?

The terrorist label is an awesome weapon in the war on terrorism. We should use it wisely. It is a means of depriving terrorist organizations of their financial support networks and bank accounts for buying weapons and explosives on the Internet for their marauding cults of hatred and murder. It is a way of taking away their Visa/MC privileges so they cannot feed hostages lies and hamburgers at the Sasa Wharf McDonald's just before bombing it.

A full working definition of terrorism and the steps required to suppress the fund-raising of terrorist organizations is contained in the 2001 US Immigration and Nationality Act. The European Union and its member countries have similar legislation. It is time for the Philippines to also enact anti-terror legislation so we have the power of the spoken word backed up by our allies, if we decide it's time to call a spade, a spade.

* * *

Post comments at www.deanjorgebocobo.blogspot.com

Media hysteria over SARS problem

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica

FROM THE LOOK of things, media attention to Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome appears to have subsided.

Last week, the main stories in newspapers and news telecasts were about the ruling of the Supreme Court nullifying the contracts for the construction of Terminal 3 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport and Gracia Burnham's account of her ordeal in the hands of the Abu Sayyaf bandits.

Although fears about SARS may have abated, a retired physician from Pateros, Dr. Pascualita Cruzada, expressed dismay with the way the Inquirer reported on the illness. She wrote: "I think you and other media outlets contributed to the SARS problem instead of helping the government prevent the disease from spreading. You reported the news about SARS all over the world in a panicky and distressful manner.

"Every day for more than a month, you did nothing but report on SARS, to the point of making us worried and sick. Your reporting made us more sick than the illness itself.

"Unless you do not know, more Filipinos die from tuberculosis, heart attack and dengue than the SARS you kept repeating in your newspaper. With your reporting, I became paranoid. I stopped going out and living my social life. I stopped reading the newspapers because all the more I became sick reading about how many died in China, Hong Kong, Vietnam and Canada.

"I believe you deliberately raised the level of hysteria over SARS so your newspaper will sell. There were other more important things happening in our country that you could have reported on but you were so focused on SARS [that] you forgot all about them."

Worldwide news

I reviewed the back issues of the Inquirer to validate the reader's complaint. News about the virus first came out on March 17 and it appeared at the lower portion of the front page. Datelined Hanoi, Vietnam, it reported the hospitalization of several Vietnamese citizens for SARS.

The following day, Hong Kong figured in the news. Scores of Hong Kong residents were found to have caught the virus. It was on March 25 that SARS first became a banner story for the Inquirer. The headline announced the death of a Filipina domestic helper in Hong Kong due to SARS.

From then on until May 5, or for almost one and a half months, SARS dominated the pages of the newspaper. There was a flood of news reports, feature articles and photos about it. The reporting became a death watch of sorts as the Inquirer kept a running score of the fatalities and suspected cases of the deadly virus from different parts of the world.

The Inquirer was not alone in giving wide publicity to SARS. So did radio and television. With Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit and other health officials on the air practically from dawn to late evening answering questions about SARS, it was inevitable that the illness became the talk of the town. It was discussed even in parties and other social functions.

Not surprisingly, the publicity sparked a demand for protective masks, disinfectants and other materials that can help prevent the spread of the virus. The vultures in the business sector quickly took advantage of the situation.

Deadly virus

The editor in chief recalled that the Inquirer was the first to break the news in the country about SARS. What was initially thought of as a variation of the pneumonia virus turned out to be something more deadly as reports about residents of Hong Kong, Guangdong and Hanoi getting sick trickled in.

She sees nothing wrong with the way the Inquirer reported on the SARS problem in the Philippines and other parts of the world. She believes it had to be given the widest publicity possible because first, it was deadly; second, there was no known cure for it; and third, it was spreading so fast.

She pointed out that the same kind of concern was shown by international newspapers, such as the Asian Wall Street Journal and International Herald Tribune, through their front page news reports and articles about the way the illness had infected other countries. The major television stations in the United States and Europe allocated a lot of minutes to the problem. In other words, SARS had strong news value not only here but also in other countries.

Responding to the reader's statement that TB, heart attack and dengue kill more Filipinos than SARS, she stressed that those illnesses are less scary because science has already found a cure for them unlike SARS which, to date, is considered incurable by the international medical community.

Did the Inquirer go overboard in its reporting on SARS? The editor in chief conceded there may be some basis in the reader's complaint on this point. But, she emphasized, for a medical problem of that magnitude she would rather err on the side of excessive publicity than give the public a false sense of security.

Evaluation

Initially, about a week after the SARS problem saw print, I thought the Inquirer was giving it more publicity than it rightfully deserved. I compared it to the Ebola virus and bird flu that in the recent past became the subject of intensive reporting in local and international newspapers. The scare over these two diseases proved to be unfounded. They were easily contained.

As the SARS cases started to appear in countries that are known for their superiority in medical research and facilities, I realized that this latest variation of the pneumonia virus was not something to shrug at. The speed at which it was infecting the world was matched by the difficulty of the medical experts in finding an antidote for it. SARS has the makings of a bubonic plague if it is not quickly and effectively checked.

Thus, I do not think the newspaper can be faulted for giving SARS extensive publicity to the point that it may have turned off some readers. Just how much is too much for an illness that, as of this writing, has already accounted for more than 500 dead and 7,000 infected people around the globe is difficult to figure out.

In some way, the "alarmist" reporting has generated beneficial results. It has raised the people's consciousness about washing their hands more often, covering their mouth when sneezing and strengthening their immune system by maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

Blaming the messenger for the bad news will not make the problem go away.

* * *

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City. Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

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Wishy-washy approach to SARS prevention

IT is not surprising that SARS is now in the country. What would surprise me is if it isn't, considering the government's response to the crisis.

More stringent measures should have been put in place from Day 1. Travel to and from the SARS-infected countries should have been strictly prohibited.

This notion of our public officials that we can allow travelers from all over the world to come here without contaminating our communities with the virus is idiotic. It only takes one person (a carrier) to spread the disease like wildfire.

Countries like Malaysia and Libya have closed their borders outright to people from the infected areas. Here, our leaders are forever wishy-washy in their approach to our problems. While the whole world is reeling from a deadly disease, Richard Gordon can only think of his tourists!

The administration should have taken into account that being a populous country, the Philippines would be hard put to contain a plague since people here live on top of each other literally. The fact that it is a poor country with scant resources is a formula for disaster. Not only that, our quarantine system is inadequate and our medical facilities are reported to be understaffed.

To exacerbate the problem, the people themselves (Filipinos, who else?) are uncooperative, ignoring directives at the airports while some have been cheating on the health checklist that is intended to weed out potential SARS carriers. Full cooperation from everyone is critical at a time like this or else we face the biggest threat ever not only to public health but to the economy as well.

I regret to say that a vast majority of Filipinos have a proclivity to defy laws and authorities. Discipline is sorely lacking even in a life-and-death situation. Do we ever stop and consider why we are in the state we are in? There is the answer.

—MILAGROS KLEIST,
P.O. Box 005,
Subic Bay Freeport Zone,
Olongapo City

Reinforcing globalization's stranglehold on RP economy

I AM opposed to Speaker Jose de Venecia's project to change the charter because the problem is not the Constitution but the policies imposed upon our country by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund and uncritically implemented by our so-called leaders, including De Venecia. These oppressive policies are now embodied in the Uruguay Round covenants enforced by the World Trade Organization and in laws enacted by our Congress in circumvention of the Constitution.

These policies are liberalization, deregulation, privatization and a level playing field, often referred to as the Washington Consensus which were designed and enforced by the WB, IMF and WTO mainly for the aggrandizement of transnational corporations.

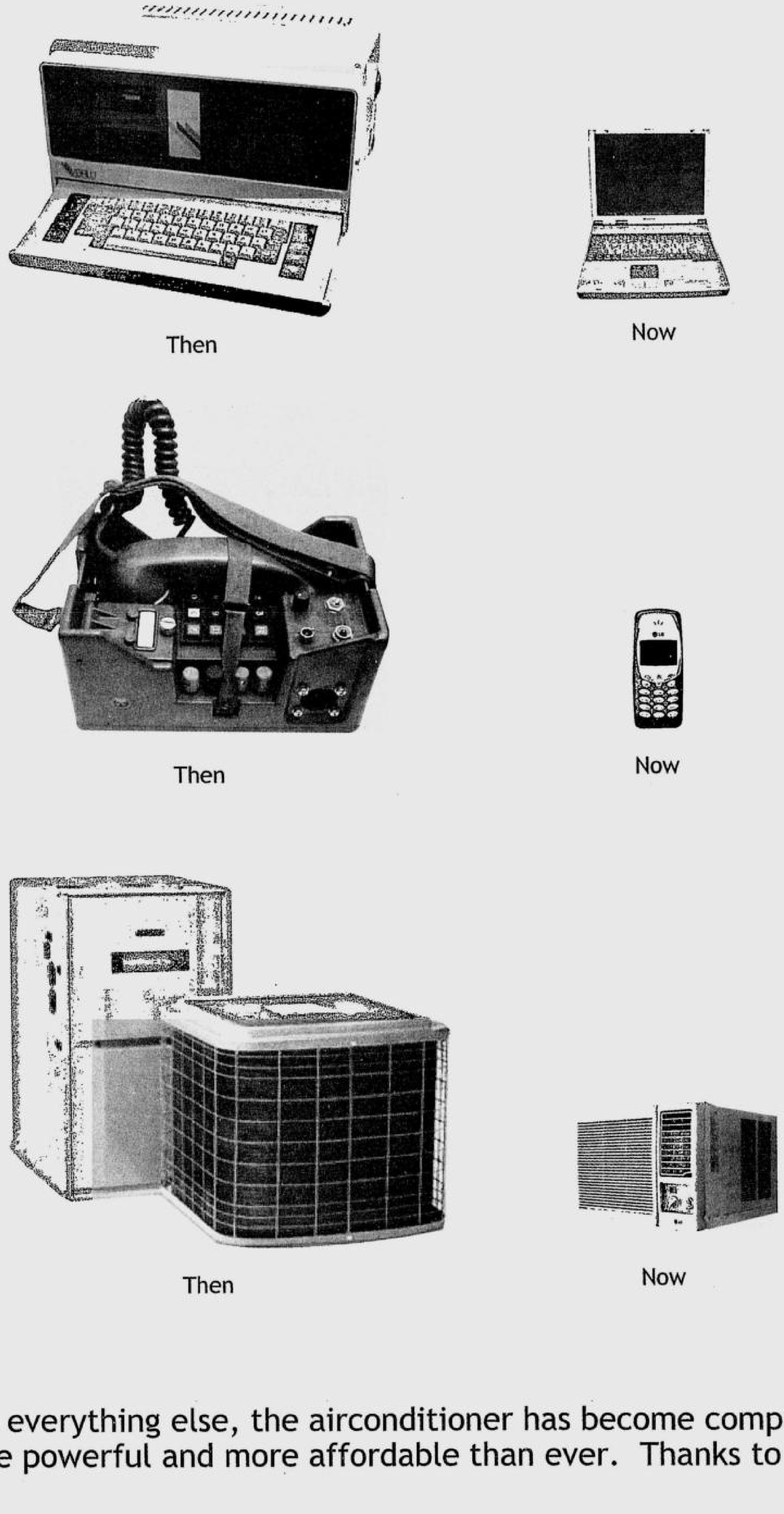
Because of these policies, millions of enterprises and jobs, especially in manufacturing and agriculture, have been destroyed, the country's tax base has severely contracted, resulting in paralyzing budget deficits, unprecedented poverty and hunger gripping the nation, and transnational corporations now controlling the commanding heights of the economy. In the Philippines today, sovereignty no longer resides in the people, it resides in the hands of the transnational corporations and is exercised principally by their minions in government.

Charter change as proposed by De Venecia and company will reinforce further globalization's deadly stranglehold upon our country. Its principal target is to delete Article XII which limits to 40 percent foreign participation in the ownership and exploitation of natural resources and in the ownership and operation of public utilities. It also aims to extend by three years the terms of office of all elective officials, including those who have been and still are in the service of globalization all these years. Finally, it seeks to replace the present presidential system with a parliamentary system and thus move the nation from light to darkness.

Filipinos know the strengths and weaknesses of the presidential system. All we have to do is focus on the strengths. We are totally in the dark regarding the parliamentary system, and in the dark no one can move with confidence.

De Venecia's charter change project will be costly in terms of energy, time and money, aimed principally at passing the blame to the Constitution for the nation's abysmal state. But what this country needs is a sea change in policies through the adoption of policies directed to realize the fundamental goals of the Constitution.

—AMADO GAT INCIONG,
Unit 301 Union Square
Condominium, 145 15th Avenue,
Cubao, Quezon City



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IRRI protests 'inaccurate' report

ONCE again, we respectfully seek your assistance to correct errors and false accusations that appeared in a report posted on the INQUIRER website last April 5, 2003. The INQUIRER continues to repeat errors it first published in 1998-99.

The report refers to "around 700 farmers and anti-pesticide activists" and "protesters" demanding the closure of the International Rice Research Institute on the its 43rd anniversary last April 4. However, independent observers estimated that no more than 300 protesters turned up, confirming yet again the tendency of the protest organizers to consistently exaggerate their level of support.

The INQUIRER reporter also repeated the allegation that IRRI "disregard(s) the safety and health of its workers and complaints from employees" while apparently ignoring the dozen or so IRRI employees who were on hand during the protest and easily identifiable by their T-shirts. If your reporter had interviewed some of these employees—people with firsthand knowledge about working conditions at IRRI—the report would have been much more balanced and at least partly accurate.

Finally, your report repeated the false allegation that IRRI's use of pesticides is dangerous. It is ironic that the Pesticide Action Network Asia Pacific, the group quoted as making the allegation, also actively promotes IRRI's work in integrated pest management, which encourages farmers to reduce their inappropriate use of farm chemicals and informs them how to do so.

We hope that, in the spirit of the recently declared 2004 International Year of Rice, your reporters and editors will make an effort to focus on the facts of rice farming in the Philippines, rather than simply repeating the unchecked allegations of discredited protest groups.

—DUNCAN MACINTOSH,
spokesperson,
International Rice Research Institute,
6776 Ayala Avenue, Makati City

One of the correspondents who wrote the story, Marlon Ramos, said he based his estimate of the number of protesters on his own independent estimate. The allegations were quoted from the protesters interviewed by Ramos. The last paragraph of the story carried the denials of IRRI officials. Duncan Macintosh was even quoted as saying, "The issues raised by the farmers are the old ones which IRRI already answered."

—PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Too many impositions on teachers

MANY public school teachers in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao have been complaining about the requirements of their respective division offices to undergo X-ray examination which they consider burdensome. Teachers who fail to comply with this requirement will be punished by withholding their salaries for May as well as their clothing allowances and productivity incentive benefits.

Aside from medical check-up, another burdensome imposition, according to the teachers, is the requirement to get clearances. Without such clearances, the teachers cannot get their vacation pay and other benefits.

The Department of Education should change its policy pertaining to these unnecessary requirements. Many teachers believe these things can be done without subjecting them to any pressure.

Besides, what is the logic behind obtaining clearances when these public school teachers are not going out of the country or vacationing abroad? The DepEd should study these matters to see if they are reasonable or they merely obstruct the right of teachers to enjoy their summer vacation.

—ABDULFADER JUKALNAIN BAIRULLA,
Bongao, Taw-Tawi

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Taipei subway new front in SARS war

BEIJING—The subway system in Taiwan's capital became a new front in the war against Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) on Sunday as a top Chinese Communist Party official called for "total victory" against the disease.

Elsewhere, an AIDS researcher said the SARS virus seemed to attack human cells in a manner akin to HIV, which may help treat the newfound illness.

The worldwide death toll from SARS was at least 536 on Sunday with 11 new deaths—six in China, three in Hong Kong, and one each in Taiwan and Singapore. More than 7,300 people have been infected in over 25 countries.

Also, German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder went ahead with a Southeast Asian tour while a top US university slightly eased a ban on students from SARS-hit countries.

As Japan sent two infectious disease experts to China to help, optimistic Beijing officials maintained the capital's SARS outbreak is waning. However, the city's Communist Party secretary talked tough after the World Health Organization complained about holes in patient data.

A MASKED passenger practices tai chi on the Taipei Mass Rapid Transit system on May 11. REUTERS

"We can't allow the slightest relaxation in the fight against SARS in May," the party's People's Daily newspaper quoted Liu Qi as saying.

He ordered officials to "make utmost efforts to fight Beijing's May battle against SARS and obtain total victory in the work of SARS prevention."

China remains the hardest hit country with at least 240 SARS deaths. Another 69 cases on Sunday raised its infection tally to 4,948. Thousands more are being kept in quarantine amid fears that the disease is spreading from cities and into the impoverished countryside, where medical facilities would not be able to cope with a sweeping epidemic.

New infection rates have dropped dramatically in Beijing in recent days. Only 42 new cases were reported Sunday along with four deaths in the city.

But WHO says it is too early to declare that the capital's outbreak has peaked. It says Beijing health authorities can't explain how about half of its more than 2,200 SARS patients caught the virus—an omission in data that hinders attempts to fight its spread.

Taiwan announced the death of a hospital nurse that raised its toll to 19. It also reported 12 new cases on Sunday, and officials fear the illness is spreading from Taipei and through the south of the island.

In response, Taiwan is installing video cameras to keep watch over about 8,000 people quarantined in their homes in case they have contracted the illness.

Video surveillance was ordered after three-times-a-day phone call checks by health officials were being circumvented by people who broke the quarantine by leaving home and forwarding all calls to their mobile phones.

In a new restriction, all passengers on Taipei's subway system now must wear medical masks. When the measure came into force on Sunday, the usual din of conversation on trains was absent as masked people sat quietly. Many wore baseball hats, apparently hoping to get extra protection against the virus. At train depots, cleaners scrubbed hand rails of cars with bleach-dipped cloths.

SARS has killed 18 people and infected 184 in Taiwan, where the transmission pattern is described as high by WHO's website.

In Hong Kong, 215 people have died and 1,678 infected. *AP*

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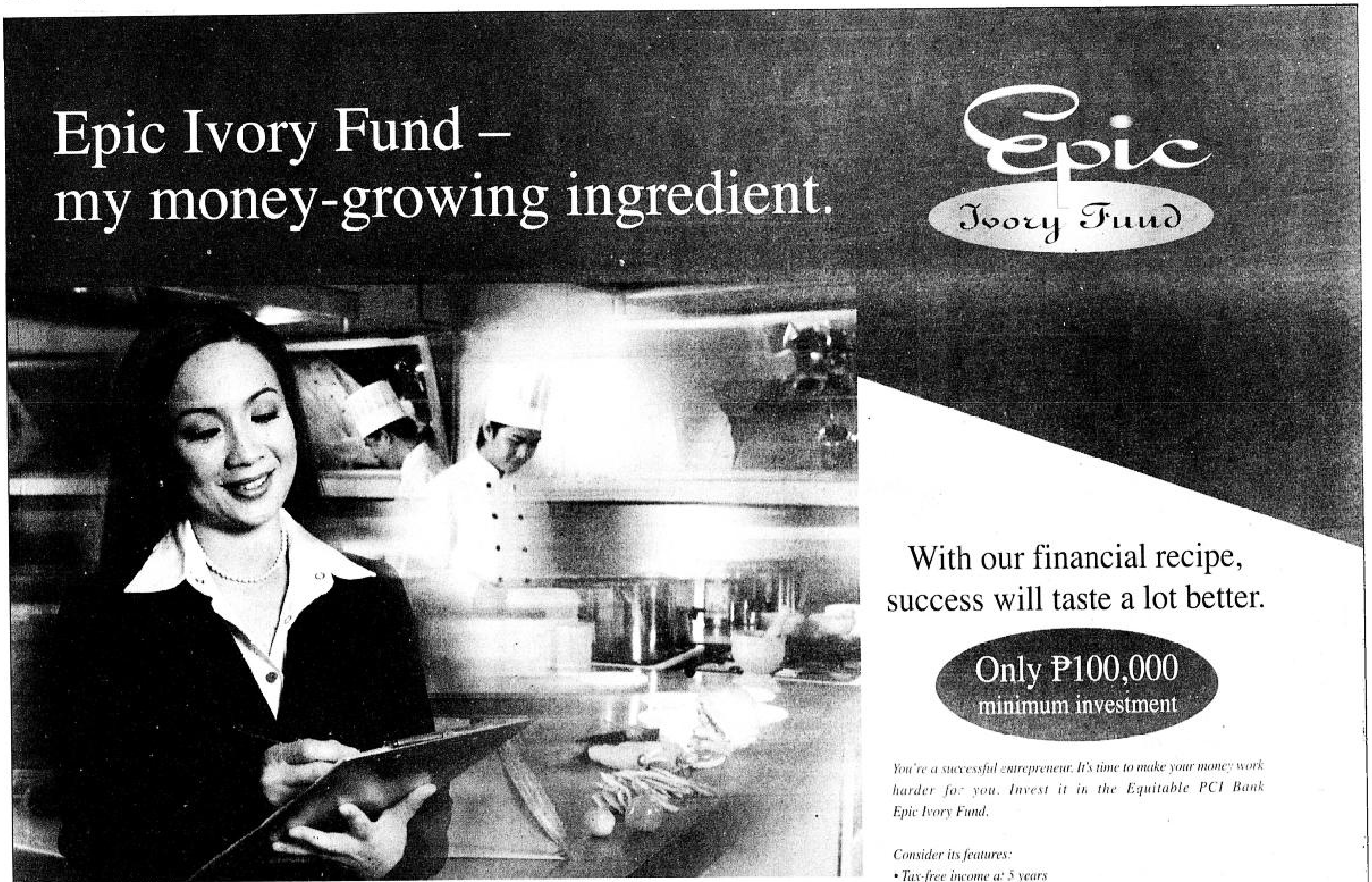

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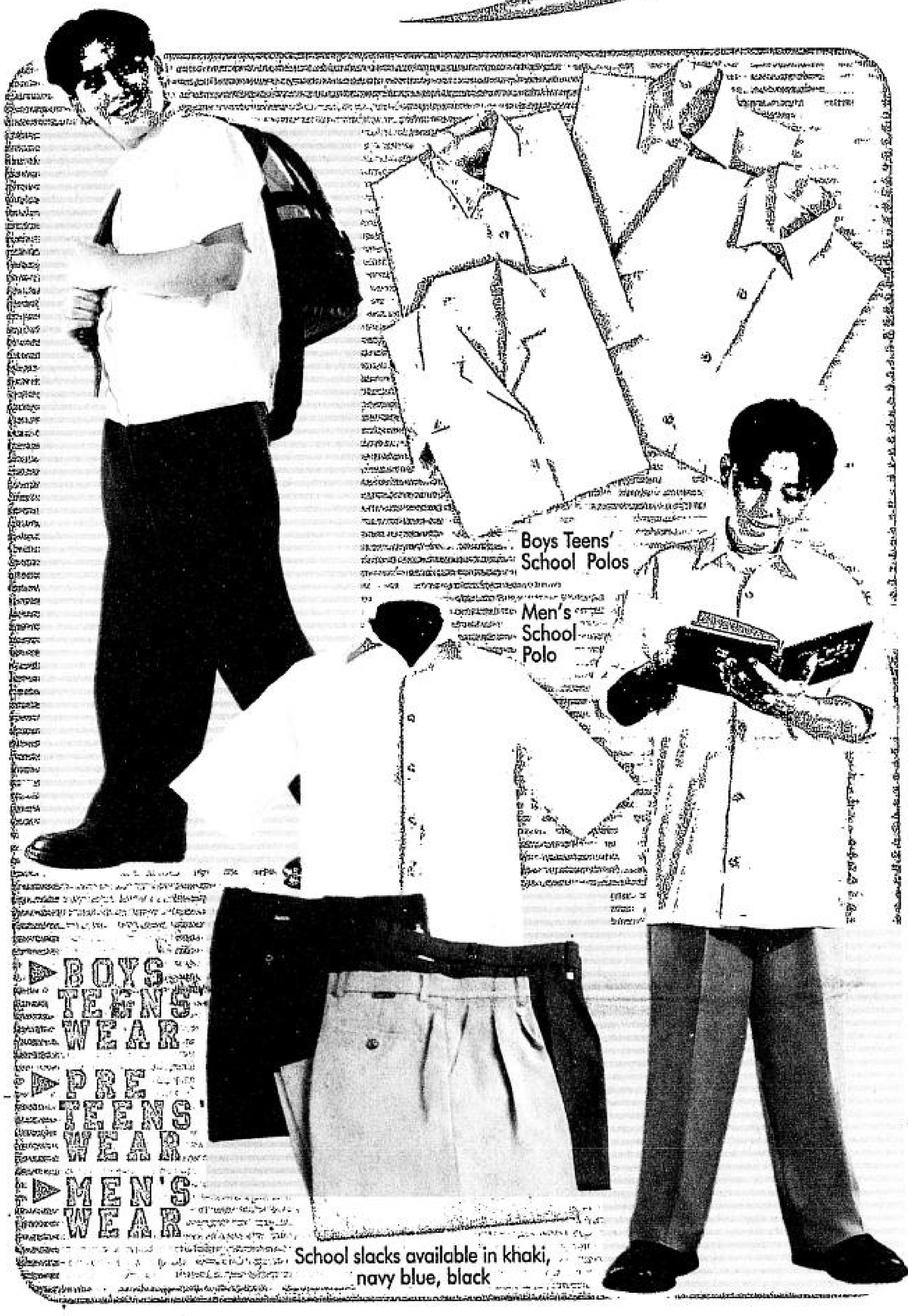

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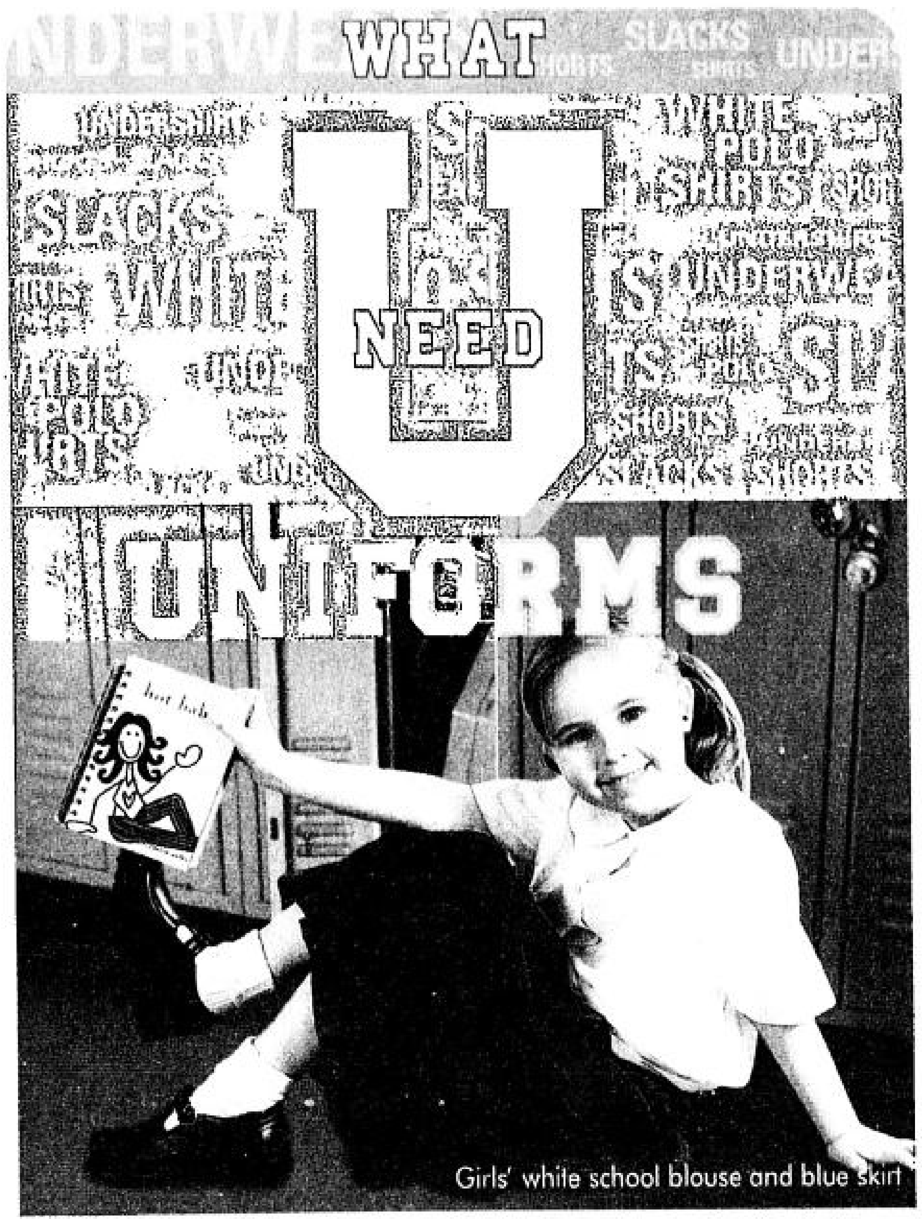

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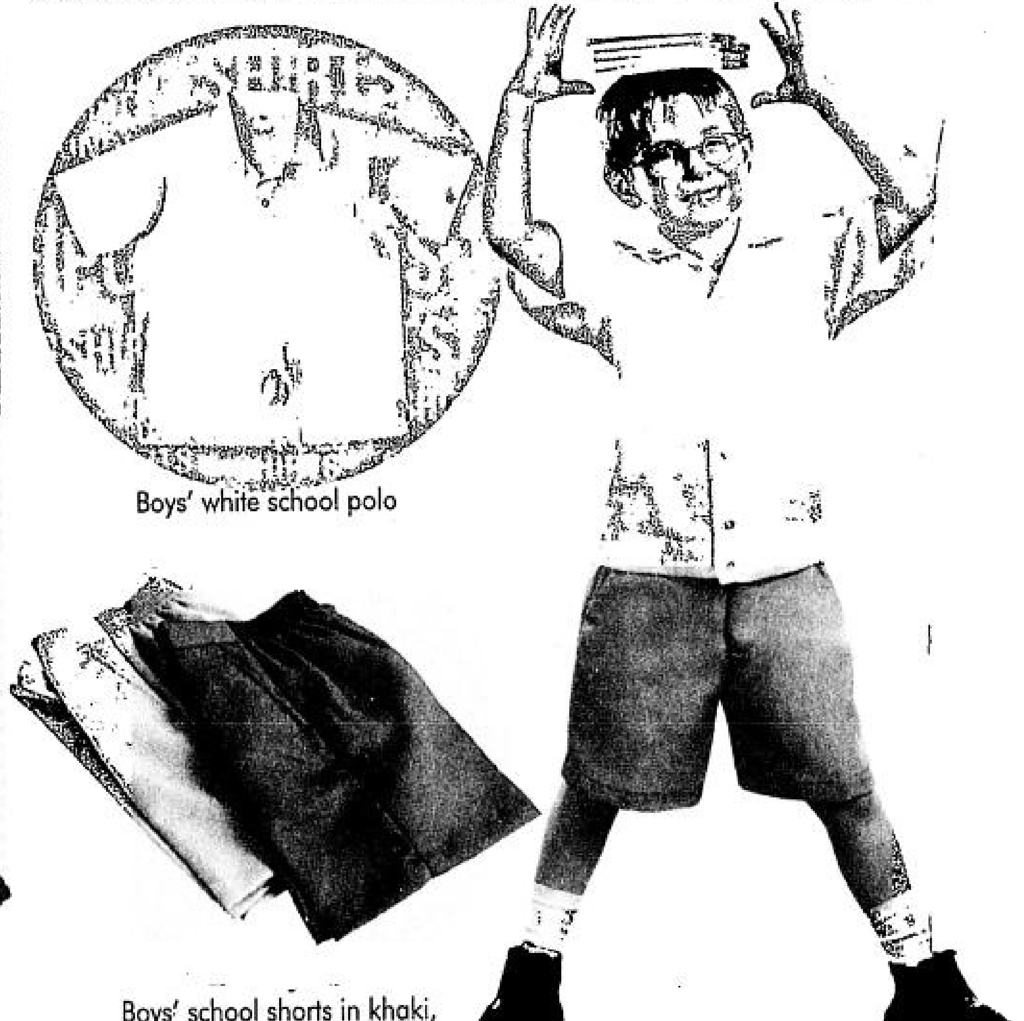

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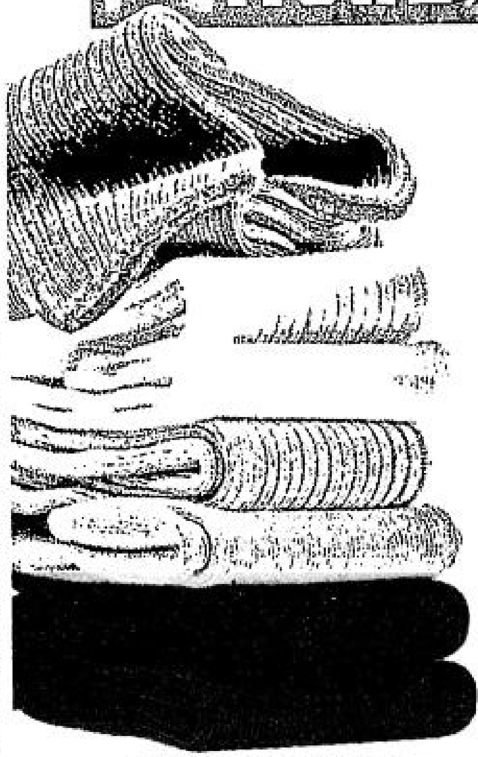
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Queen's rep stands aside over rape raps

CANBERRA—The British queen's representative has temporarily stood aside as Australia's nominal head of state until he is cleared of rape allegations made public last week, Prime Minister John Howard said Sunday.

Gov. Gen. Peter Hollingworth denied last Thursday a previously unknown allegation that he raped a young woman at a church camp in the 1960s.

"It has been agreed between the governor general and myself that Dr. Hollingworth will stand aside from his position as governor general pending the determination of the court proceedings initiated in the Supreme Court of Victoria," Howard told reporters.

Australia, a former British colony, retains Queen Elizabeth II as head of state. As her representative, the governor general is nominal head of state, commander in chief of the defense forces and performs duties such as signing legislation into law and swearing-in governments.

Hollingworth has been under pressure to resign for the past 10 days after a yearlong Anglican Church inquiry found that when he was a senior Anglican archbishop in the early 1990s he had allowed a pedophile priest to continue working despite knowing the man had sexually abused a 14-year-old girl. The pressure on Hollingworth grew when the rape allegation surfaced.

The woman filed a civil case earlier this year alleging Hollingworth raped her. Last month, after filing the case, the woman committed suicide, but her lawyers have vowed the case will go ahead. The case became public last Thursday after the court lifted orders suppressing the identities of those involved.

Howard said that while Hollingworth stands aside from his position as governor general of the Australian Commonwealth, the queen's representative in the state of Tasmania, Gov. Sir Guy Green would stand in for him.

Howard said that Hollingworth would not be able to consider resigning over the mishandling of the pedophile cases when he was Anglican archbishop of Queensland state, until the case over the rape allegations in the Supreme Court of Victoria state was finished.

"It is only when those proceedings have been determined that the governor general can give consideration to the longer term tenure of his office," Howard said.

The prime minister said that Hollingworth would consider the "dignity and the protection of the office above all other considerations."

Howard, who spoke with Hollingworth earlier Sunday, said he believed the former archbishop had done nothing that suggested his appointment should be terminated.

Howard, who recommended Hollingworth's appointment to Queen Elizabeth II two years ago, is the only person who can recommend dismissal.

Last year, Hollingworth acknowledged "errors of judgment" over several pedophile cases when the issue first arose and sparked the Church inquiry, but refused to resign his governor general post. *AP*

Former Beatle brings rock 'n roll to Colosseum

ROME—Taking the floor where gladiators once battled wild beasts and fought to the death, ex-Beatle Paul McCartney brought rock 'n roll to Rome's Colosseum for the first time.

"We understand it's the first time there's been a band in the Colosseum since the Christians," McCartney joked with the audience, in reference to the persecution of the early Christians by the Roman authorities.

"Rock the Colosseum," he yelled toward the end of the show on Saturday night, before launching into sing-along Beatles hit "Hey Jude" to a rapturous response.

Lighting in hues of orange gave an intimate atmosphere to the concert despite the immense space. In its heyday some 2,000 years ago, the Colosseum could seat as many as 80,000, but on Saturday just 400 people were let in for the benefit show.

"This is a beautiful, beautiful place," the 60-year-old star told the audience of VIP guests and a lucky few who nabbed rare paying seats in an Internet auction.

Proceeds from the auction will go partly to Adopt a Minefield, a charity set up by McCartney's wife Heather Mills McCartney, and partly to archaeological projects in Rome.

McCartney made ample use of his treasure trove of Beatles hits, with 18 out of the 27 songs he performed coming from the pioneering 1960s band's repertoire—including "Can't buy me love", "Let it be" and the classic of classics "Yesterday."

"I've loved these songs for more than 30 years, and to see him perform them in the Colosseum is almost too good to be true," said Renato Jacopetti, who paid 1,100 euros ($1,263) for two tickets and came down from the northern city of Padua. *Reuters*

WorldBriefs

Not to Iraq leaders

WASHINGTON—Syria gave haven to families of Iraqi regime leaders, but not the leaders themselves, Syrian President Bashar Assad said in an interview in the May 19 edition of US magazine Newsweek. "Some of them came to the border. They weren't allowed to come in," he said of members of Saddam Hussein's regime, many of whom disappeared during the US-led invasion of Iraq. "We allowed families to come to Syria, women and children. But we were suspicious of some of the relatives—that they had positions in the past and were responsible for killings in Syria in the '80s," Assad told the magazine. But he insisted that volunteers who entered Iraq via Syria to fight in support of Saddam Hussein crossed over a lengthy unsealed border. "The government of Syria had no relations with these volunteers," or with "individuals" who smuggled arms into Iraq, Assad said. ***AFP***

India's 2nd missile test

NEW DELHI—India on Sunday test-fired a new domestically developed Astra air-to-air missile for the second time in three days, the Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency reported. The missile was fired from a test range at Chandipur, in the eastern coast state of Orissa, PTI said. The missile has a range of 25 to 40 km and was developed by India's Defense Research and Development Organization. The Astra was first test-fired from Chandipur on Friday. Sunday's test of the Astra comes a day after visiting US Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage voiced cautious optimism that India and archrival Pakistan were inching toward a resumption of dialogue on their long-standing dispute over the Himalayan region of Kashmir. Pakistan declined to comment on India's latest missile test. ***AP***

Powell-Sharon meeting

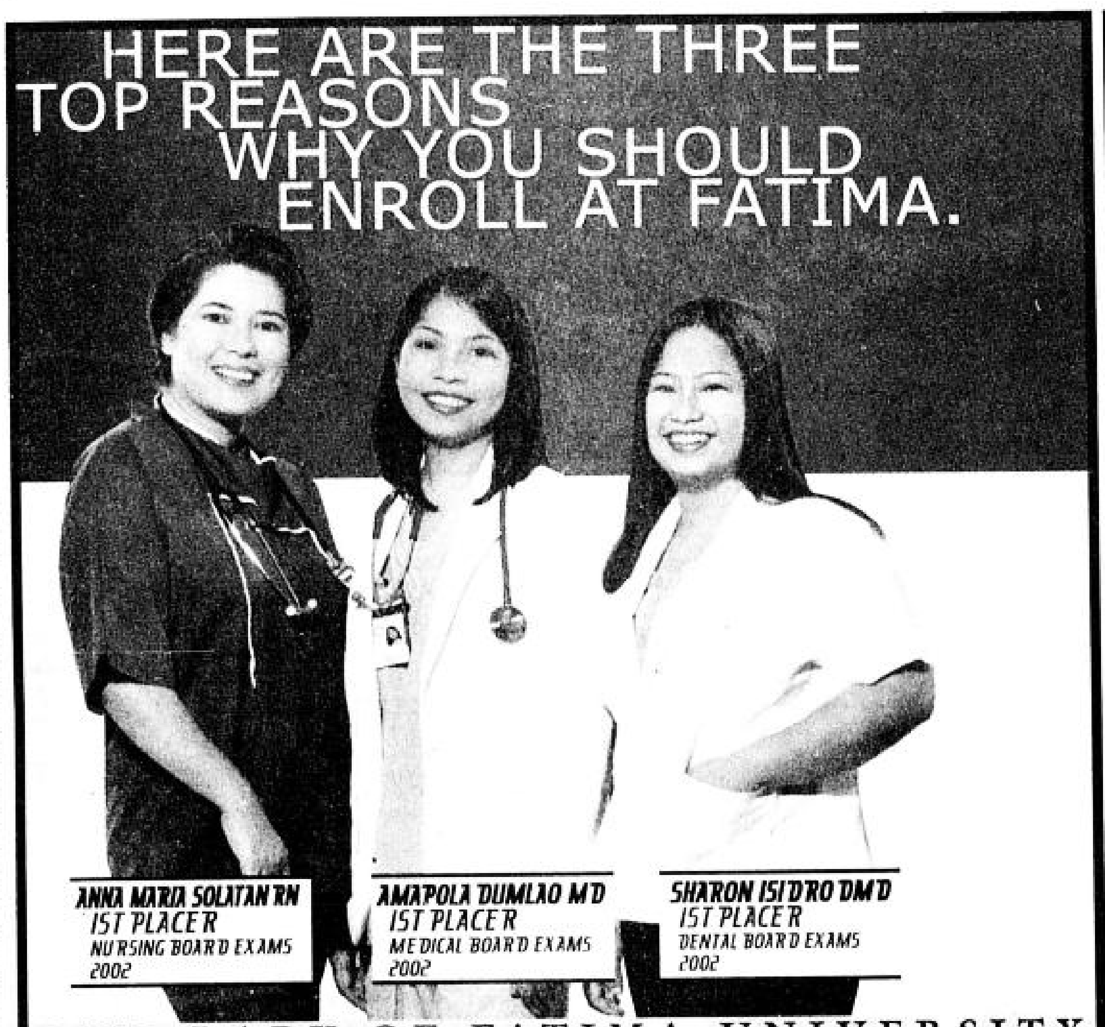
JERUSALEM—Israel eased the blockade on Palestinians ahead of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's meeting with US Secretary of State Colin Powell, whose trip to jumpstart the roadmap for peace was marred Sunday by the killing of an Israeli in the West Bank. Powell, also due to hold talks in the West Bank town of Jericho with newly sworn-in Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmud Abbas, kicked off his lightning visit to promote the roadmap Saturday by telling both sides: "Let us get started now." Powell added: "There is a need to end violence now. There is a need to end terror now. There is a need to take some steps that will make life a little better for the Palestinian people. We know what has to be done on the very first step of the first phase, so let's get on with it." ***AFP***

Hope for Aceh peace

BANDA ACEH—Four Aceh rebel representatives held by Indonesian police as suspects in bomb attacks were released on Sunday, a move that may offer a glimmer of hope for last-ditch efforts to save a crumbling peace deal. Indonesia has said if Free Aceh Movement (GAM) rebels do not meet government officials by Monday to resolve differences over the agreement, they face an all-out military offensive. The four, detained by police since Friday, were senior representatives of GAM on the joint security committee overseeing the peace pact in Aceh, Indonesia's westernmost province. On Saturday, police said the four were officially suspects in relation to bombings in Jakarta and Medan, a step that brought condemnation from other GAM leaders. ***Reuters***

Emergency measure

SEOUL—North Korea warned Sunday that it would take "an emergency measure" if the United States opted to resolve the nuclear crisis by force. The warning came from Rodong Sinmun, the North's ruling Workers Party newspaper, as South Korean President Roh Moo-Hyun left for Washington for a summit with US President George W. Bush. "If the US does not drop its hostile policy toward the DPRK (North Korea) and finally opts to settle the nuclear issue by force, the DPRK will be left with no option but to take an emergency measure," Rodong said. ***AP***



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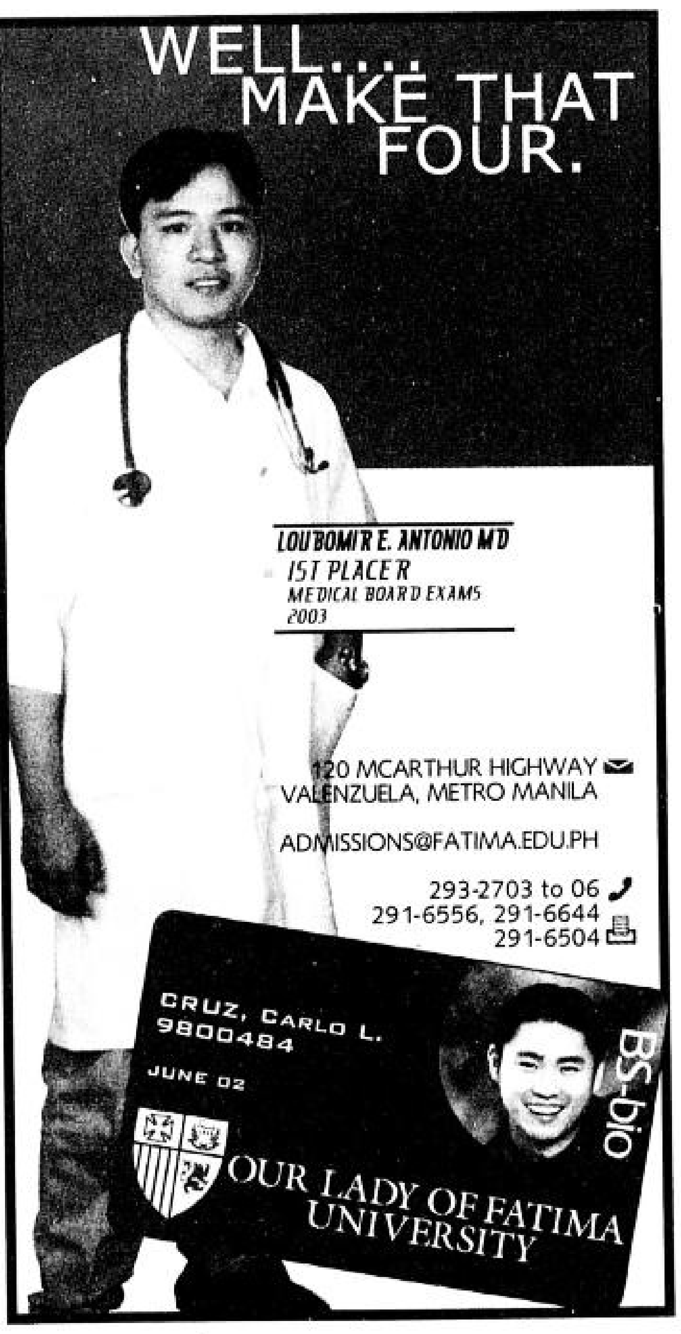

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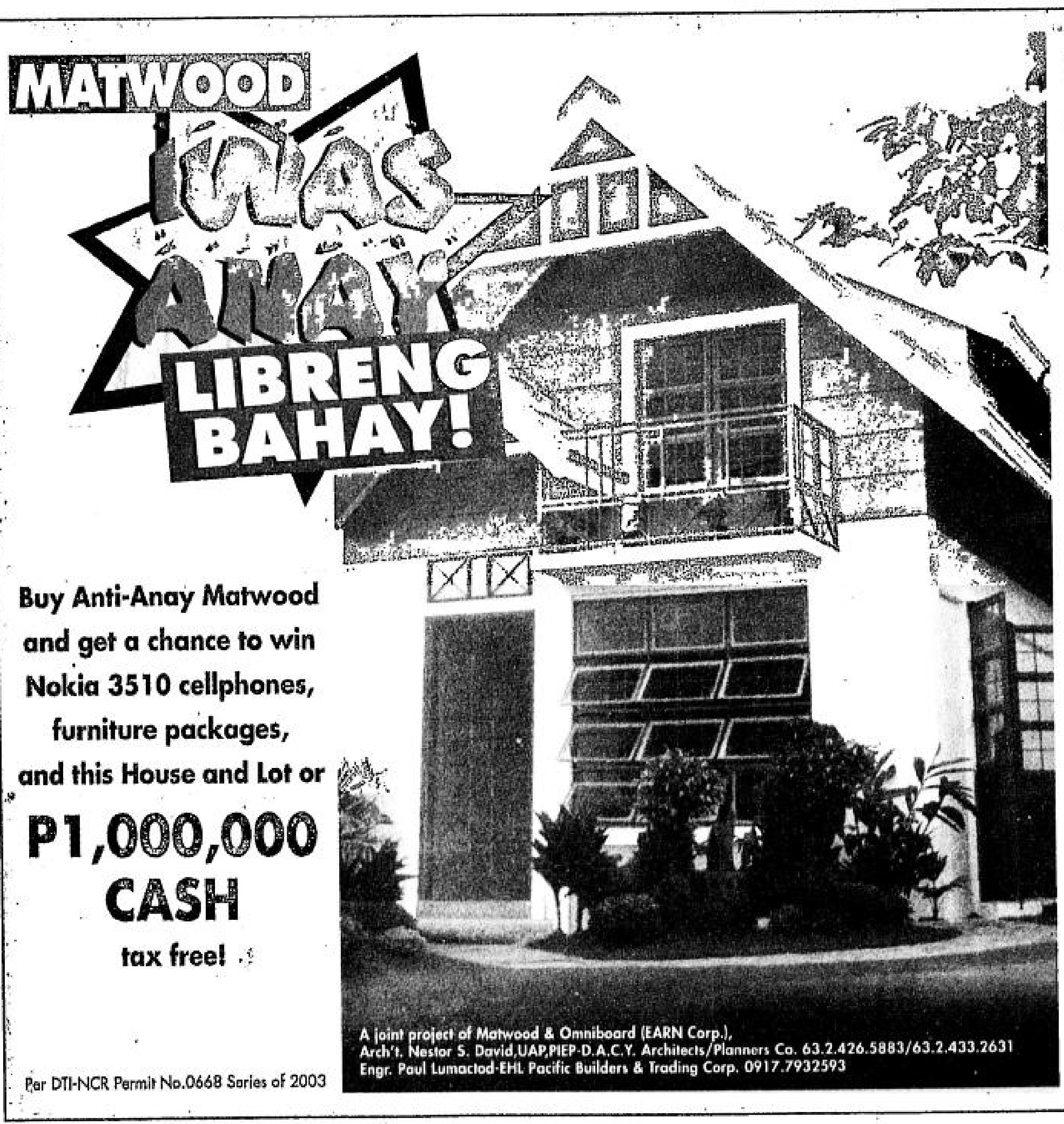

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Period Covered	Deadline of Submission of Entries	Raffle Draw Dates
1st Monthly Draw: Mar. 1–31	31 March	14 Apr. 2003, 3pm
2nd Monthly Draw: Apr. 1–30	30 April	14 May 2003, 3pm
3rd Monthly Draw: May 1–31	31 May	13 June 2003, 3pm
Grand Draw: Mar. 1–June 30	30 June	14 July 2003, 3pm

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  b. Nokia 3510 (5 units each for Luzon and Vismin)
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     Luxuriant Sofa Set (3-seater, 2-seater, 1-seater), Divan, Center table, TV Rack
  b. Nokia 3510 (5 units each for Luzon and Vismin)

4. All raffle prizes are nontransferable, tax-free and non convertible to cash.
5. A participant can win only once in each draw. If a name is drawn more than once, he/she gets the bigger prize.
6. Monthly draws for both Luzon and Vismin will be held separately and simultaneously, with the same number of winners. Non-winning raffle entries for the month still have a chance to qualify for all the succeeding draws.
7. For Luzon entries, monthly draws will be held at the MATIMCO, INC. SALES OFFICE, 62 Old Samson Rd, Balintawak, QC at 3:00 pm. For VisMin entries, monthly draws will be held at the MATIMCO INC. HEAD OFFICE, Hi-way Estancia, Mandaue City, Cebu at 3:00 pm. The winning raffle stubs will be drawn using tambiolos of Matimco in the presence of a DTI representative.
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Surrender 3 Mindoro soldiers, Army told

By Madonna T. Virola and Clarice Colting
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

GLORIA, Oriental Mindoro—Department of Justice Undersecretary Jose Calida has asked Col. Juanito Gomez, acting commander of the 204th Infantry Brigade, to surrender M/Sgt. Donald Caigas who had been identified as one of the armed men who mauled several persons, including village officials, in Barangay Tambong here on April 20.

The Barangay Tambong incident took place a day before human rights activist Eden Marcellana and peasant leader Eddie Gumanoy were found dead in Bansud town.

Calida said if Gomez did not surrender Caigas and two other Army sergeants by Friday evening, he would be obstructing justice and could be implicated in the case.

Gomez said he will try his best to surrender the three soldiers.

"Apparently, Col. Gomez is waiting (for) instructions from Col. (Juanito) Palparan who has already been relieved of his command here but still calls the shots. So this is another disturbing discovery because Col. Gomez should be in command but apparently cannot even order his men to see us," Calida said.

The INQUIRER learned that it was only a certain Sgt. Clemente who was surrendered to Calida.

Same soldiers

Gomez earlier refused to submit the names of soldiers who were said to have responded to the calls of their "bonnet-clad" colleagues when police cornered them in Barangay Buong Lupa.

Calida, in a statement made before the Senate, believed that the same soldiers were responsible for the deaths and torture of Marcellana and Gumanoy.

He castigated Gomez on Thursday when the latter did not produce the soldiers identified by witnesses as perpetrators.

Lawyer Robert Masaon of the Army Judge Advocate General's Office said the soldiers feared the members of the fact-finding mission whom they reportedly saw carrying guns before their talk with Calida.

Calida also ordered the three soldiers to take lie detector tests.

He also inspected the vehicles of the 68th Infantry Battalion in Naujan.

One of the witnesses identified a Kennedy-type jeep with the mark "Kaagapay" as the one used by the armed men who identified themselves as members of the military during the incident in Barangay Tambong in this town last April 20.

Problem

Calida also interviewed Gloria town Mayor Romeo Alvarez, who said their problem in the town is not the New People's Army but the military.

Alvarez, who said he has been with the police for 32 years, claimed that he was also getting threats everyday. He declined to identify the suspects.

"We were suspected of being leftists," said Alvarez.

"I just heeded the complaints of my residents on the warrantless arrest and mauling," he said, adding that if these would not be addressed, the cases will continue.

He said he was happy that the DOJ had stepped in but feared that if the search for the killers failed, the local officials will be in hot water.

He said the men who murdered Marcellana and Gumanoy took all the documents that the two had with them when they were killed.

Marcellana and Gumanoy were investigating reported cases of military abuses in Gloria when they were killed on April 21.

Alvarez said he recognized that the Army is the legitimate armed force of the country.

Police disarmed

During the investigation by the Committee on Justice for Eden and Eddie, Gloria chief of police Senior Insp. Jimmy Morada reported that around 7 p.m., April 20, the house of Vicente Montejo, 65, in Barangay Tambong was "searched by a group of men believed to be members of Philippine Army based in Naujan."

Police alerted some barangay officials. One of the responding policemen, PO1 Dick Anthony Carandang, who entered the house, was disarmed by the group.

Other policemen entered and negotiated with the armed group in the presence of the victims who were mauled and harassed.

The victims were identified as barangay chair Remando Recalde, barangay tanod Ramon Villaruel, Arnel Montejo, Roger Sales and one Alex Livelo of the same village.

Sales, a worker in a rice mill, said he was brought out of Montejo's (his uncle) house, his hands tied, and was mauled, blindfolded and brought to a place where he was forced to admit that he was a NPA member.

Countdown for Justice

WAPILE

IT IS exactly 364 days today since Pagadian journalist Edgar Damalerio was slain in cold blood. The principal suspect, police officer Guillermo Wapile, remains at large after escaping while in the custody of the police.

Zamboanga Sur town priest, vice mayor jailed for libel

Ryan D. Rosauro
PDI Mindanao Bureau

TAMBULIG, Zamboanga del Sur—A Catholic priest has been jailed since Friday along with this town's vice mayor and four other persons identified with a movement to oust the mayor.

They were issued arrest warrants because of a libel suit filed by Mayor Eduardo Balaod who told reporters he can "no longer take the smear campaign" launched against him by the Oust Balaod Movement (OBM).

The group was formed to push for his ouster on allegations of gross malfeasance in office.

Fr. Dexter Zamoras and vice mayor George Aleman are with four other detainees jailed at the police station.

The six detainees surrendered to police Friday upon learning of the warrant issued by Municipal Trial Court Judge Ricardo Salvanera.

The libel charge stemmed from posters and streamers hung and posted in strategic portions of the town center and along the national highway urging the public to participate in a movement to oust the "corrupt mayor."

Eleven persons were named in the warrant as subjects for arrest. The warrant also orders the arrest of "other OBM members."

While he was not named in the warrant, Zamoras voluntarily gave up "because it is public knowledge that I am an OBM member so I am subject to arrest."

He joined the other detainees as "it would be much safer for me here (in jail) than hiding and being hunted by authorities and Balaod's men."

Five of the 11 arrest subjects remained at large. Another subject, former mayor Alfredo Dumamjug Sr. told authorities he was submitting himself for detention but asked to be allowed to stay at home because of an ailment.

OBM was launched on May 1 through a rally that decried the alleged corruption by Balaod.

A manifesto was circulated during the rally detailing the alleged "numerous cases of malfeasance" committed by Balaod. The manifesto was also made a basis in Balaod's libel charge.

"I can tolerate criticisms as long as these are constructive, but the present discourse has (gone) beyond these bounds to the point of maligning my name," Balaod told the INQUIRER.

Balaod is seeking from P10 million to P50 million in moral damages.

But Zamoras questioned the "very hasty issuance" of a warrant for their arrest. He said they were not aware they were facing a criminal complaint because of their OBM activities.
Ryan D. Rosauro, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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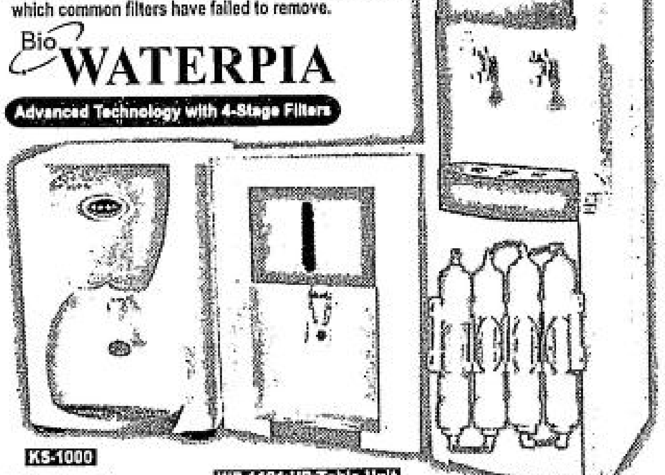

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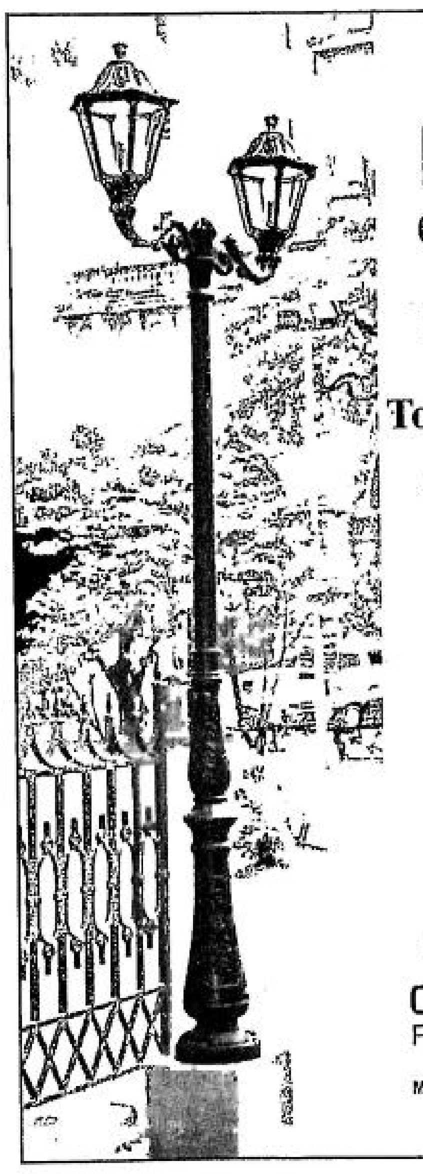

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Elders call for end to tribal wars

QUIRINO, Ilocos Sur—Heeding the clamor of members of warring tribes in Mt. Province and Kalinga, tribal elders in the Cordillera and Ilocos Sur have called on the concerned tribes to stop violence and settle disputes through indigenous peace agreements.

At least 34 elders from Mt. Province, Kalinga, Abra and Ilocos Sur, in a workshop held during the recent Cordillera Day celebration here, discussed ways to end the ongoing dispute between the Butbut tribe in Tinglayan, Kalinga and the Betwagan tribe in Sadanga, Mt. Province.

Banag Simunlag, chair of the Binodngan People's Organization (BPO), said at least 10 members of the warring tribes had been killed since the boundary conflict started in December 2001.

The plan to install a marker and a statue to honor Cordillera hero Macli-ing Dulag in his native village of Bugnay in Kalinga was shelved last year due to the conflict.

"This is very alarming already because 10 lives had been lost and the number will continue to rise if we (do) not settle this soon. We pity our children who are witnesses to this conflict," Simunlag said.

He said property, such as carabaos and other farm animals, have also been targets of attacks.

During the workshop, Butbut elders asked their counterparts from the Betwagan tribe to immediately solve the conflict, but the latter asked for time, saying they had to consult with other members of the tribe.

Markus Bangit, BPO secretary general, said both tribes are in a defensive posture and want to protect their territories.

Bangit said tribe members build posts and fences in the disputed boundaries to prevent attacks.

In the first three months of this year alone, six tribal conflicts have erupted in Kalinga, he said.

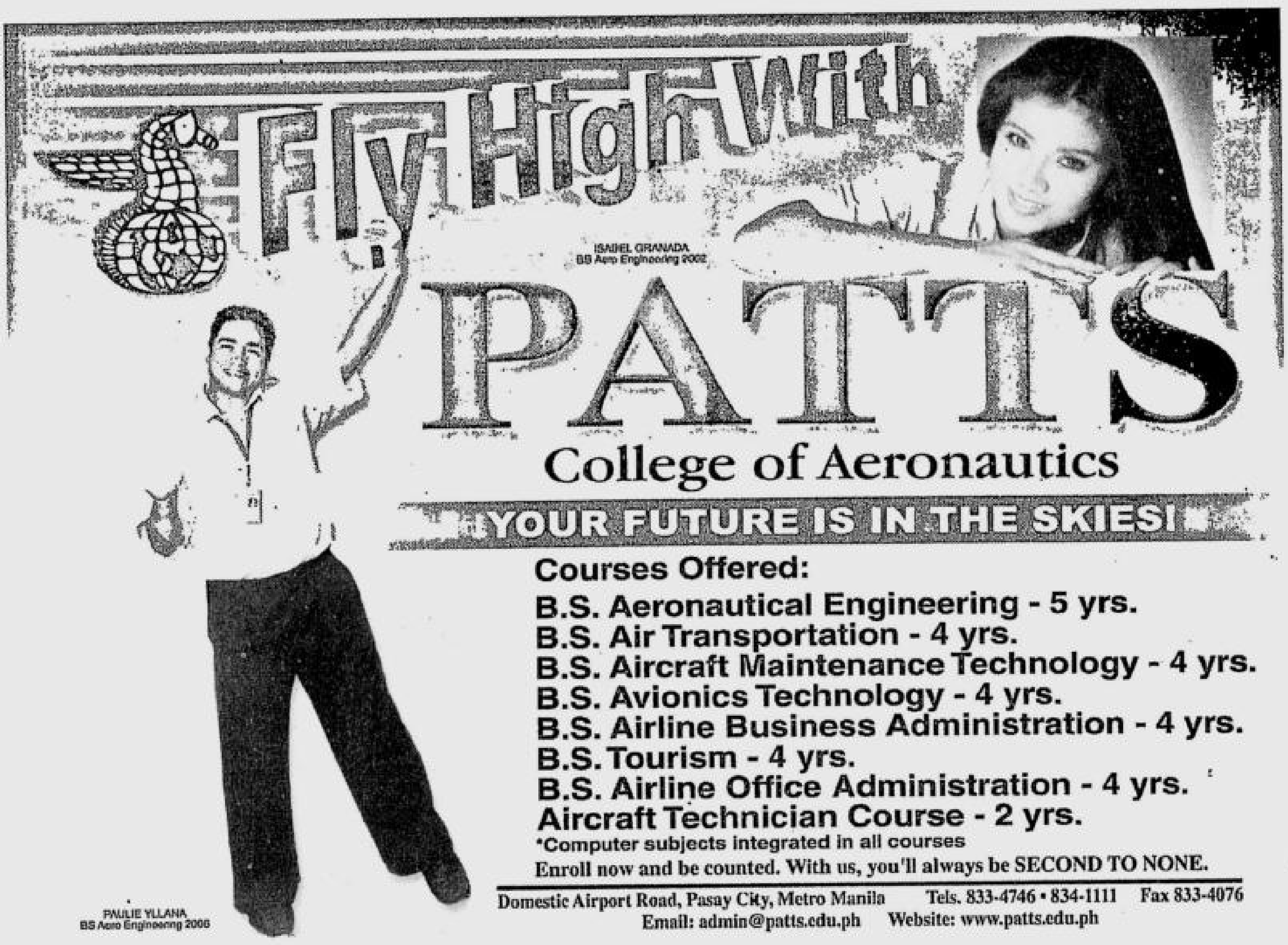
"We condemn all forms of tribal war because killing each other is wrong. This will destroy our unity in defending our land and resources which are the usual targets of government policies that favor big capitalists," Bangit told the INQUIRER.

The elders signed the resolution calling for a ceasefire between the Butbut and Betwagan tribes.

They also asked the tribe members to pass a *sipat* (exchange of tokens) to symbolize the start of *singlip* (talks).

Bangit said Betwagan elders have asked other Cordillera elders to discourage representatives from other sectors, such as the church and the police, from intervening in the talks.

"Only elders of other tribes are allowed to intervene," said Bangit. *Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*



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Cordillera women want role in tribes' decision-making

BAGUIO CITY—Asserting their role in communities around the Cordillera, 500 women representing various tribes in the region have passed a resolution urging the participation of women in the decision-making process of their tribes.

The resolution, passed during the 4th regional congress of the women's group Innabuyog-Gabriela on Saturday, encouraged Cordillera women to participate in solving tribal conflicts by joining the *bodong* (peace agreement), especially when tribal wars erupt.

Men dominate the decision-making process in various tribes, and it is high time women joined the process to solve conflicts, the resolution said.

"We all know that the role of women in the past was significant, especially during tribal conflicts. They were the ones who bring the *sipat* (exchange of tokens) to start the peace talks between warring tribes," said Leonora Membrot, Innabuyog-Gabriela chair, said in a forum.

The resolution was patterned after a document approved by elders from Mt. Province, Abra, Benguet, Ifugao and Kalinga during the Indigenous Congress of Elders in Kalinga in September last year.

Vernie Yocogan-Diano, Innabuyog-Gabriela secretary general, said the resolution is a breakthrough for Cordillera women who have minor roles in the social and political aspects of the villages.

Diano said tribal communities usually turn to men in solving the problems of the community because they are considered the most knowledgeable in the community.

Membrot said most elders in the Cordillera are now asking women to join the *ator*, a group that carries out economic, political and religious functions in the community. *Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

11 killed, 21 hurt as jeep slams into tree in Cagayan

ILAGAN, Isabela—Eleven people were killed and 21 others were hurt when an overloaded passenger jeepney slammed into a narra tree along the national highway in Barangay Domingo Leano in Claveria, Cagayan, on Friday, belated police reports reaching the INQUIRER showed.

Senior Supt. Rodrigo de Gracia, Cagayan police director, identified the fatalities as jeepney driver Ricarte Asuncion Sr., passengers Charles Labao, Abraham Arellano, Jake Lucero, Gino Belangel, Aniceto Labao, Francis Lucero, Gerry Labao, Flora Asuncion, Francis Alarcon Jr. and Joey Oandasan, all residents of remote Barangay Patta East in Claveria. The injured passengers were taken to the Agra Emergency Hospital and Northern Cagayan District Hospital in Claveria, and to the Don Mariano Marcos Medical Hospital in Batac, Ilocos Norte.

Reports said the victims attended the fiesta at the Claveria poblacion and were on their way home to Barangay Patta East when they met the accident at past 12 midnight Friday.'

De Gracia said driver Asuncion failed to control the steering wheel after he miscalculated a sharp curve along the highway in Barangay Domingo Leano. The jeepney swerved and rammed into a narra tree.

The collision's impact wrecked the jeepney and threw off many of its passengers. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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SARS, Naia 3, Iraq issues boost GMA's popularity

From page A1

campaign; and the windfall from the Iraq war, consisting of jobs for Filipinos in the reconstruction of that country.

Why SARS which is a health calamity? Her high-profile manifestation of care for victims and concern for containing the epidemic win points. Disasters give national leaders the opportunity to identify with sufferers and use state resources to alleviate distress.

Let me give you an example. At the assessment of the defeat of the Christian Democrats in last autumn's general election in Germany, party strategists credited the razor-edge victory of Chancellor Gerard Schroeder of the Social Democrats to two factors: the flooding that devastated the Rhine and Central Europe, and Schroeder's opposition to the US diplomatic offensive to win UN authorization to invade Iraq.

Schroeder was highly visible on TV taking charge of relief operations, especially in former communist regions (whose votes were critical).

According to the CDU strategists, in a briefing to Conservative MPS in London, which I attended, the identification of Schroeder with the disaster relief refocused attention of the electorate from the economic theme emphasized by the CDU's Edmond Stoiber.

As premier of Bavaria, Stoiber highlighted Bavaria's star economic performance. But the strategists said you couldn't keep economic charts and graphs running for several days without boring people. The flooding in the last days of the election campaign wiped out Stoiber's economic success message.

As one media strategist said, winning elections is about visual images. Of course, Schroeder tapped the strong pacifist undercurrent swelling against war in Iraq. These two events snatched victory from the Christian Democrats.

A Social Weather Stations survey in March showed that although public satisfaction with the administration declined with respect to fighting terrorism, it improved in regard to caring for Filipinos in the Middle East danger zones.

Ruling on Piatco

The second element—nullification by the Supreme Court of the Piatco corruption-riddled contracts on building Naia Terminal 3—vindicates the President's decision to stake the credibility of her anti-corruption campaign on the Piatco deal.

More importantly, the Supreme Court's decision validated her activist position in exercising the powers of the state to rectify corruption-tainted contracts that prejudice public interest and distort state policy on foreign investment and privatization.

The skepticism over the political will behind the corruption campaign had always hung low over the head of the President. This cloud is reflected in the lower trust ratings the President received in the Pulse Asia survey.

The decisive stand on Piatco can help dissipate this cloud. The battle in court to nullify the Piatco contracts demonstrates the political will to fight corruption.

Critics in the opposition are now trying to deflect the impact of the Piatco decision on strengthening the administration's hand in pressing for the anti-corruption campaign and speeding the opening of the new terminal.

The critics are insinuating that administration cronies are rushing to grab concessions at the terminal after the cancellation of the Piatco contracts.

It is extremely important for the administration, therefore, to be squeaky clean in the determination of the equity that has to be awarded to Piatco and its German partner, Fraport, and in the rebidding of concessions on services in the new terminal.

If corruption again sets in, the administration would squander the windfall and the political capital it has gained from the court's decision.

Support for US war

The Pulse Asia survey says that despite the pessimistic outlook, the President has maintained her rather precarious approval rating. It points out that her withdrawal from the May 2004 elections and her support for the US-led war on Iraq do not appear to have either positive or negative impact on her ratings.

If this is accurate, then developments in post-war Iraq can only improve her ratings. When the survey was taken on March 29 to April 12, the outcome of the war was still uncertain.

Although Filipino public opinion appeared to be strongly against the war, they were also hedging their bets. With the swift victory of the US-led coalition, the administration's unwavering support for Bush's war policy, the victory could have also generated a wave of bandwagon opportunism. Filipinos are noted for climbing the bandwagon of winners, if not perceived winners, in our elections.

Whether we agree with the President's policy of supporting Bush, the reality is that the Philippines is in the camp of the winners in the distribution of rewards. Ms Macapagal is receiving a warm welcome in Washington when she pays a state visit later this month.

While it is not clear what economic package Bush will reward her, it is certain that opportunities for Filipino participation in the reconstruction of Iraq have been opened.

Unlike France, Germany and other countries which opposed the war, the Philippines, as a member of the "coalition of the willing," has an open path to win subcontracts to supply reconstruction projects with Filipino skills.

"Jobs" is the buzzword. These are the windfalls of victory that the administration is reaping.

By the end of the year and unless she commits an extremely disastrous political blunder, the President can build political capital that can enhance her capacity to govern effectively and to be a kingmaker in the 2004 elections. This means that she has to curb the itch of her husband, Mike Arroyo, in meddling in public affairs behind the scenes.

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SARS fear affects RP jobseekers

From page A1

to return to their work because of their ethnicity.

Badajos, who is acting principal officer of the consulate, said he and his colleagues were scheduled to meet with representatives of the Human Resources Development-Canada in Toronto to discuss the impact of SARS on Canada-based Filipino workers.

The meeting, which will also be attended by Canadian employers and leaders of Filipino-Canadian community, seeks to address problems arising from "aggressive and occasionally disruptive" health prevention measures, such as the 10-day quarantine, that have been undertaken by Toronto health officials to contain the spread of SARS.

Because of the quarantine period, many individuals were forced to miss work.

Philippine consulate officials said they would focus on the issue of compensation or unemployment insurance benefits that a person should receive during the period of quarantine or isolation because of SARS.

Metro Toronto has the the biggest Filipino-Canadian community in Canada, as well as the largest concentration of Filipinos in the entire country.

The community was brought to the SARS limelight in Toronto last month after 500 members of a Filipino Catholic charismatic group, the Bukas Loob sa Diyos, were placed in quarantine by city health officials following the death of one of them due to SARS. The members attended the April 3 funeral of the SARS patient.

A Filipino-Canadian doctor, who was reportedly infected by the patient, has been brought to the hospital and remains in critical condition.

WHO list

The meeting with Toronto employers and employment officials comes in the wake of Foreign Secretary Blas F. Ople's expression of concern on the inclusion of the Philippines in the World Health Organization (WHO) list of countries with a "medium" pattern of local transmission of SARS.

A note verbale handed over by Ople to the WHO's resident representative in Manila, Dr. Jean Marc Olivé, noted that the categorization lumped the Philippines with other countries that have 13 to 20 times more than its total number of SARS cases. Philippine health officials have recorded 10 SARS cases, including two deaths.

"It [the WHO list] has resulted in the unwarranted and baseless issuance of travel warnings against the Philippines and restrictions on the entry of Filipinos and other travelers coming from the Philippines," the diplomatic note said.

Yesterday, Ople said that Singapore had already removed the Philippines from its list of countries to be avoided due to the SARS danger.

Revised advisory

In a statement, he said that Singaporean Chargé d'Affaires Paul Koh announced the changes in a May 8 travel advisory when the foreign secretary summoned him to the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Ople stressed that these were the times when cooperation and greater understanding among Asean (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) neighbors should be the rule.

"I conveyed to Singapore the agreement that was reached during the Special Asean Leaders' Meeting on SARS in Bangkok on April 29, that the international community should avoid indiscriminately advising their citizens to refrain from visiting or otherwise dealing with member countries," Ople said.

"Mr. Koh gave me the assurance of the Singapore government that remedial actions will be immediately taken to address our concerns and to prevent similar occurrences in the future," Ople said. "He reiterated to me the importance that Singapore gives to its relationship with the Philippines."

In its note, the DFA informed Singapore that "in the interest of preserving the good relations between the Philippines and Singapore, the issuance of any travel advisory should be considered thoroughly and within the boundaries of existing regional cooperative action to fight SARS."

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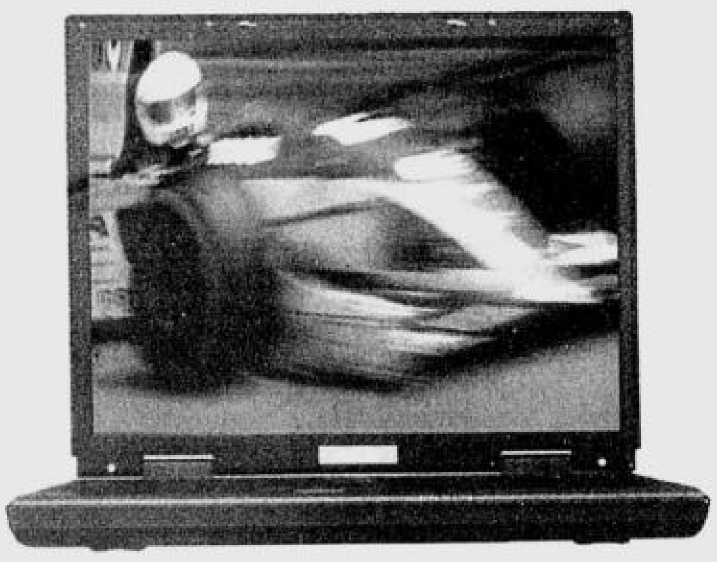

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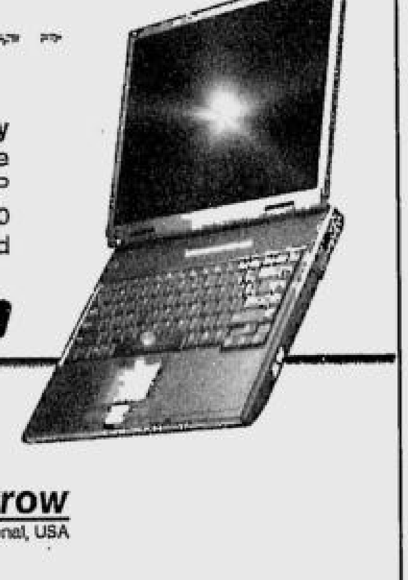

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Crucial vote on Cha-cha today

From page A1

"optimistic" that the committee would recommend to the entire Senate a constituent assembly instead of a constitutional convention as the mode for amending the Constitution.

Angara was one of five senators who held formal meetings on Charter change with leaders of the House, which earlier passed the constituent assembly resolution by a vote of 134-13.

Nachura said the Senate needs a simple majority to pass the assembly resolution in both the committee and the plenary. This means eight votes in the committee and 12 in the plenary.

Once the Senate approves Charter change through an assembly, there will be no turning back, according to Nachura.

House leaders want to convene as soon as Congress opens joint sessions in July.

Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. said the work of the assembly could be finished by October so that a plebiscite could be held in December or January. Then parliamentary elections could be conducted in May.

Nachura said that once the Angara committee issues its report, hopefully for the assembly mode, only five senators would be needed to bring it to the floor for final decision.

In a meeting with House leaders last week, Angara said the chances for the assembly in the Senate were still 50-50, but he expressed optimism that it would eventually prevail. He said the constituent assembly could be convened by "mid-August or early September."

House officials earlier said 10 senators were in favor of amending the Charter through an assembly. They identified the senators as Angara, Barbers, Villar, Sotto, Revilla, Aquino-Oreta, Biazon, John Osmeña, Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Robert Jaworski.

To get the majority vote of 12 in the Senate, House leaders need two more votes. They expect the crucial votes to come from Senators Gregorio Honasan, Loren Legarda, Ramon Magsaysay and Ralph Recto.

Sources in the Senate said that should a vote take place now, according to their count, six senators would be against the resolution calling for a constituent assembly, five for it and three undecided.

No vote

But Arroyo and Oreta over the weekend said they did not expect the Senate committee to vote today on the resolutions seeking Charter change.

Villar and Biazon are out of the country, Oreta said. Moreover, she said senators and congressmen of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino were to meet in her house on Wednesday to discuss whether the party would take a common stand on the Charter change, among other topics.

In today's meeting, the Senate committee is expected to tackle 10 resolutions seeking Charter change, including the controversial House Concurrent Resolution No. 16 that Arroyo had criticized for its swift passage without a quorum and a roll call vote on March 19.

Also to be tackled is the resolution filed by Angara calling for a constituent assembly and that filed by 14 senators led by Drilon calling for a constitutional convention to amend the Charter.

Earlier, Drilon said there would be no committee report if the majority of eight votes was not met.

He expressed the belief that members were split in the middle on the issue. As early as two weeks ago, Angara also gave a similar view.

At least this is shown in the Senate resolution calling for a constitutional convention that 14 senators, led by Drilon, signed. Seven of them (Flavier, Legarda, Sotto, Osmeña, Magsaysay, Revilla and Pangilinan) are members of the Senate constitutional amendments committee.

Sources said the senators were watching how Legarda would vote following her recent statements that while she signed the resolution calling for a constitutional convention, she was now "keeping an open mind."

In an interview Friday, Biazon told the INQUIRER there was not enough time for Congress to amend the Constitution.

Because of this, he plans to file a resolution calling for a plebiscite to be held simultaneously with the 2004 elections. The people would be asked in the plebiscite whether they want to change the Charter.

Biazon said he would file the resolution when he returned from a trip abroad next week

Within 10 days

De Venecia warned on Friday that the decision to have Charter change should be finalized within 10 days or else it will not take place.

Speaking before 23 governors in Legazpi City during the convention of the League of Provinces, De Venecia said the House believes that 10 days from now, there should already be confirmation from the Senate whether the constituent assembly would be held in August.

"If within 10 days or within the week, there's no consultation or recommendation, for sure we'll wait after seven years (2010) to campaign again for a constitutional assembly. Things will get worse. By that time, we will be left behind by Laos or Vietnam," he said.

He said it was the very reason he came to the 12th General Assembly (of the League of Provinces), "to persuade and convince those who are not yet enlightened by the goodwill this constituent assembly may bring to each and everyone of us."

"There are lots of benefits we could get if this will be successful," he assured the governors.

Davao del Norte Gov. Rodolfo P. del Rosario, national president of the League of Provinces of the Philippines, disclosed his strong support for a constituent assembly to amend the 1987 Constitution this August.

He said congressmen were opposed to a convention because the amendments would take effect only in 2010.

The assembly could choose between a French-style President who is powerful or a Singapore-style President who has reduced powers, De Venecia said.

Those who say Charter change will result in the cancellation of the 2004 elections and the extension of the term of incumbent officials "do not speak for us and they don't espouse our cause," he said. *With a report from Gil Francis Arevalo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

'Terrorist tag inevitable'

From page A1

curity.

Shortly after his arrival from the United States yesterday, Reyes reiterated that he favored declaring the MILF a terrorist group.

"We have long wanted the MILF to adopt a more serious attitude toward a peaceful settlement of the conflict but if it is indeed established that they are the ones who again perpetrated this kind of incident, then the government might be constrained to really examine their terrorist status," Reyes said at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

While investigators are still looking into the Koronadal bombing, "it's the trademark of the MILF to use mortar shells as improvised bombs," Tiglao said.

Interior Secretary Jose Lina blamed the Koronadal public market blast on the MILF. "All indications point to the MILF. But we have no concrete evidence yet," he said.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines said it was not yet clear if the MILF was indeed behind the latest bomb attack. Both the MILF and the Abu Sayyaf were on the list of suspects, according to military spokesperson Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia.

Koronadal Mayor Fernando Miguel said a certain Abu Sulaiman of the Abu Sayyaf group had claimed responsibility for the bombing. Miguel said Sulaiman had been calling him asking for P1 million in protection money. The alleged bandit leader reportedly threatened to continue sowing terror in Koronadal unless the mayor gave in to his demand.

Police have picked up several persons in connection with the bombing. Lina refused to divulge the number and identities of the people invited for questioning by the local police. He said the police had already made sketches of the two suspects based on the accounts provided by witnesses.

The Koronadal bombing came six days after the MILF attack on Siocon that left 22 people dead.

The government has blamed the MILF for the bombings at the Davao City airport on March 4 that killed 23 people and at the city's Sasa Wharf on April 2 that left 16 people dead.

Intelligence failure

The provincial government of South Cotabato blamed lax security measures and failure of intelligence by the police and military for the carnage.

"Somebody must be held liable for this incident. What are the intelligence operatives of the police and military doing? What happened to their intelligence funds? If the intelligence arm of the government is efficient, this incident could have been prevented," Gov. Daisy Avance-Fuentes said.

The city was also bombed on Feb. 21 and March 25.

PNP Director General Hermogenes Ebdane said the police and military could not be blamed for the incident.

"We could not be everywhere, every time. The terrorists are just waiting for an opportune time to strike. We could not totally prevent such an incident to happen," he said.

Brig. Gen. Alexander Yano, 601st Army Brigade commander here, said the civilians play a very vital role in the government's campaign against terrorism.

"Terrorists are using unconventional method in advancing their cause. Fighting it is everybody's concern. All sectors, particularly civilians, must be involved," Yano said.

Yano said the police and military securing the area were undermanned. Without support from civilians, authorities could hardly accomplish anything, he said.

"We are fighting terrorism which is not conventional warfare. The terrorists blend and merge with the civilians. So we need the support of the civilians in terms of providing vital information to track down these terrorists," Yano said.

Aside from the bombings, it has been "established that the MILF is coddling the Abu Sayyaf and other bandit groups in Mindanao," Tiglao said.

Formal recommendation

He said Presidential Special Adviser Renato de Villa had yet to make his formal recommendation on whether the government should classify the MILF as a terrorist organization.

"The President would want to get the views of the governors in Mindanao," Tiglao said. "One problem that has been raised is that the governors and the mayors there should be given more authority, more leeway within the bounds of laws to deal with the terrorist threat."

He said Ms Macapagal had canceled her schedule for Monday and Tuesday so that she could go to Mindanao, particularly Koronadal and probably Siocon.

"Her aim first of all is to condole with the victims and make sure that assistance is extended to them and their families," he said.

"Secondly, she would want to see for herself on the ground what's really the problem and how we can finally end this terrorist scourge that is afflicting Mindanao."

Tiglao said the President will consult with local officials and the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police.

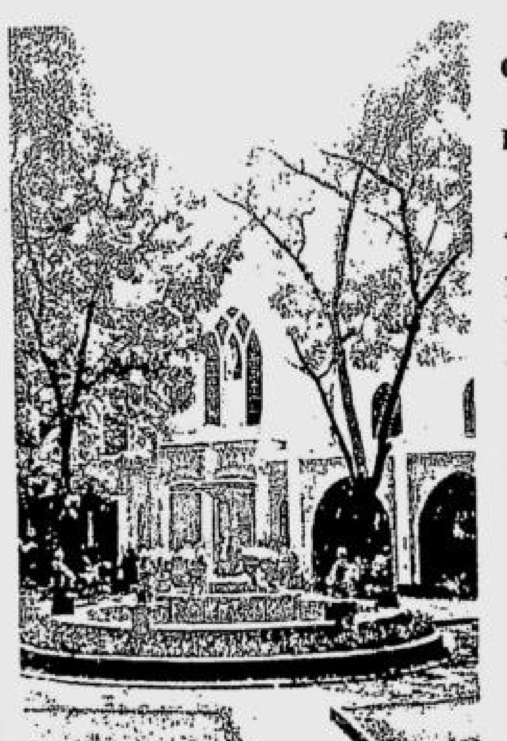
He said the President wants the governors of South Cotabato, North Cotabato, Maguindanao and Sulu to constitute themselves into a "working group" that will be coordinated by Presidential Adviser for Mindanao Affairs Jesus Dureza.

This group will be involved in "ending this terrorist scourge in Mindanao," Tiglao said.

Asked if the government would accept any support from the United States regarding this concern, Tiglao said: "We welcome all help."

But he said there has been no such official offer, "but of course, we would appreciate all help."

"What we really need from the US is military material such as helicopters," Tiglao said. "If they [the US] can have a way of helping out in asking the MILF to stop their terrorist attack, that will be very welcome."



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"That in all things, God may be glorified."

Death con seeks . . .

From page A1

tion, Lumanog said in a four-page petition that he filed with the Supreme Court on May 5.

"To return accused-appellant to the NBP death row or even (the) hospital after his recent kidney transplant would, under the circumstances, be tantamount to executing his death sentence even though this is still pending on automatic review," Lumanog said through his lawyer Soliman M. Santos Jr.

Lumanog underwent transplant surgery at the NKTI on April 22, and the hospital later said in the discharge summary that the patient "should avoid crowded places to prevent infection."

Returning Lumanog to death row "would be a gross irreversible violation of his fundamental constitutional and human rights to life and due process," Santos said.

He said the next three months would be a "constant battle against infection" for Lumanog.

"During this period, Lumanog will take medicines costing up to P1,000 a day; and for the rest of his life, he has to take another set of medicines costing up to P500 a day. Because the medications he is taking are intended to lower his immunity so his body will not reject the donated kidney, Lumanog is vulnerable to any type of infection," Santos said.

He said the "best alternative is home stay, especially in an insulated and uncrowded house, where his family can also closely monitor and take good care of him."

Santos said Secretary Eduardo Ermita, presidential adviser on the peace process, had expressed willingness to take custody of Lumanog and "guarantee his appearance before the court whenever so required."

Santos said Lumanog and his four fellow death convicts had suffered enough with their detention for almost seven years since June 1996.

A communist hit squad, the Alex Boncayao Brigade, has claimed responsibility for the killing. Even so, the Abadilla 5 were convicted on the basis of "tortured" confessions and the testimony of a sole witness.

The case has drawn the attention of the London-based Amnesty International. According to the international human rights watchdog, the case brought to the fore Amnesty's various concerns about the Philippine judicial system—widespread torture of suspects, use of police "safe houses," violation of the right to due process and the eventual wrongful conviction of the accused.

The case is under automatic review by the Supreme Court.

STOP SARS ATTACK

SARS DOH OFFICIAL ADVISORY

MONDAY 12 May 2003

BUILD YOUR BODY'S RESISTANCE AGAINST SARS -- DOH

One of the ways to avoid getting SARS, or other common diseases for that matter, is by practicing a healthy lifestyle to build the body's resistance. You can do this by having regular exercise, adequate sleep, eating a balanced diet, taking adequate fluids and avoiding smoking.

Aside from building the body's immunity against ordinary diseases, you can also avoid SARS by practicing personal hygiene, washing one's hands frequently, covering one's mouth when sneezing and coughing. When your resistance is low or when you are sick of other illnesses, you should avoid crowded places.

Question.	I'm a one-pack-a-day smoker and I'm wondering why cigarette smoking is being linked to SARS? Is this another gimmick of anti-smoking advocates?
Answer.	Are you still not convinced that smoking is dangerous to your health? Smoking lowers your body's resistance to fight off infections. Smokers can easily get infected not only with the SARS virus, but also with other lung infections. Remember, SARS is a respiratory disease and your lungs are at stake! Quit smoking and maintain a healthy lifestyle.

Reported SARS cases in the Country
(March 17 - May 10, 2003)

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SARS cases
SARS deaths
SARS Recovered/Cured

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Magsaysay joining ...

From page A1

"More than the name, my dad has been consistent," Paco said. "He doesn't do things for personal reasons."

Landslide

The late President Magsaysay, the third president of the republic, won by a landslide and went on to become the "most popular" of Philippine presidents. He was the only president who opened the gates of Malacañang Palace to the public. At 50, he died in a plane crash on Mount Manunggal in Cebu.

"He was very close to the people and instituted many social reforms," Paco said of his grandfather.

Senator Magsaysay, born in Manila in 1938, has two children—Marga and Paco, who are now both married. The senator has two sisters, Milagros and Teresita.

With the death of President Magsaysay in 1957, then 18-year-old Jun inherited greater responsibilities that enabled him to recognize the value of perseverance and hard work.

Jun spent most of his academic years at De La Salle College in Manila, where he earned a degree in mechanical engineering. He pursued his academic studies at the Harvard School of Business Administration in Boston, Massachusetts and at the New York University Graduate School of Business Administration.

House's Benjamin

In 1966, Magsaysay was elected congressman of the lone district of Zambales. Then only 27, he became the youngest congressman to be elected and was then called "Benjamin of the House."

After a productive four-year term in Congress, Magsaysay returned to the private sector. He ventured into garment manufacturing and export, semi-conductors, travel and tourism.

Armed with his business education and engineering skills, Magsaysay pioneered the cable TV business in the country.

In 1995, then President Fidel Ramos invited Magsaysay to join the senatorial slate of the Lakas-Laban coalition as a guest Liberal Party candidate. He landed in third place among the 12 elected senators and first among the neophyte candidates.

At present, Magsaysay chairs three Senate committees—agriculture and food, national defense and security, and science and technology.

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Marlboro ...

From page A1

greener pastures in the East.

Philip Morris, a US tobacco major and owner of the smoking cowboy that is one of the most recognizable icons and cigarette brand names in American popular culture, accepts that children and smokes do not mix and that adults must be warned of the health hazards of their lifestyle choice.

"Is it possible to be in the tobacco business and still be a responsible corporate citizen? We certainly believe so," said Andre Calantzopoulos, president and chief executive of Philip Morris International.

The slight, boyish global tobacco operations boss opened a $300-million factory in this city in Batangas province last week, two months after an Illinois court ordered Philip Morris USA to pay $10.1 billion in damages for misleading smokers for 30 years about the dangers of "light" cigarettes.

Sick smokers

That came on top of a 1998 settlement by Philip Morris and other manufacturers to pay $246 billion over 25 years to help US state governments care for sick smokers.

"We're working to communicate openly about tobacco products, including clear messages about their serious health effects. It is a fundamental obligation," Calantzopoulos said.

"Our position on smoking is consistent and firm: Children should not smoke and should be kept away from cigarettes. We also believe that tobacco regulation is necessary."

An intensified global effort against tobacco products, blamed for diseases that the World Health Organization says kills 4.9 million people every year, is looming as member-states meet in Geneva on May 19 to consider the final text of the world's first treaty against tobacco.

It would commit countries to "undertake a comprehensive ban of all tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship," provided such a ban is allowed by their constitutions. It would come into effect if at least 40 countries ratify it.

Market share

Asia is key to the future of the tobacco business of Philip Morris, which claims a global market share of more than 14 percent.

China, Indonesia and Japan are among five of the world's biggest tobacco consumers—the United States and Russia being the other two. The WHO predicts an increase in the 10 years to 2008 would mostly be accounted for by women and in the developing world.

Smoking is leveling off in developed countries, where tobacco companies face advertising restrictions and fresh litigation.

The modern, air-conditioned Philippine tobacco processing and cigarette manufacturing plant here will serve as the company's Southeast Asian hub, rolling out an annual 40 billion cigarette sticks share of a global output estimated by WHO at 5.5 trillion sticks.

The Philippines has a centuries-old tobacco farming industry, a government keen on drawing foreign investment, and a rapidly growing population of 80 million—45 percent of them aged 19 or younger.

There are no restrictions on tobacco sales and advertising.

Like going to movies?

"Smoking for adults is like going to the movies that is not prohibited by moral and other standards," said Vice President Teofisto Guingona.

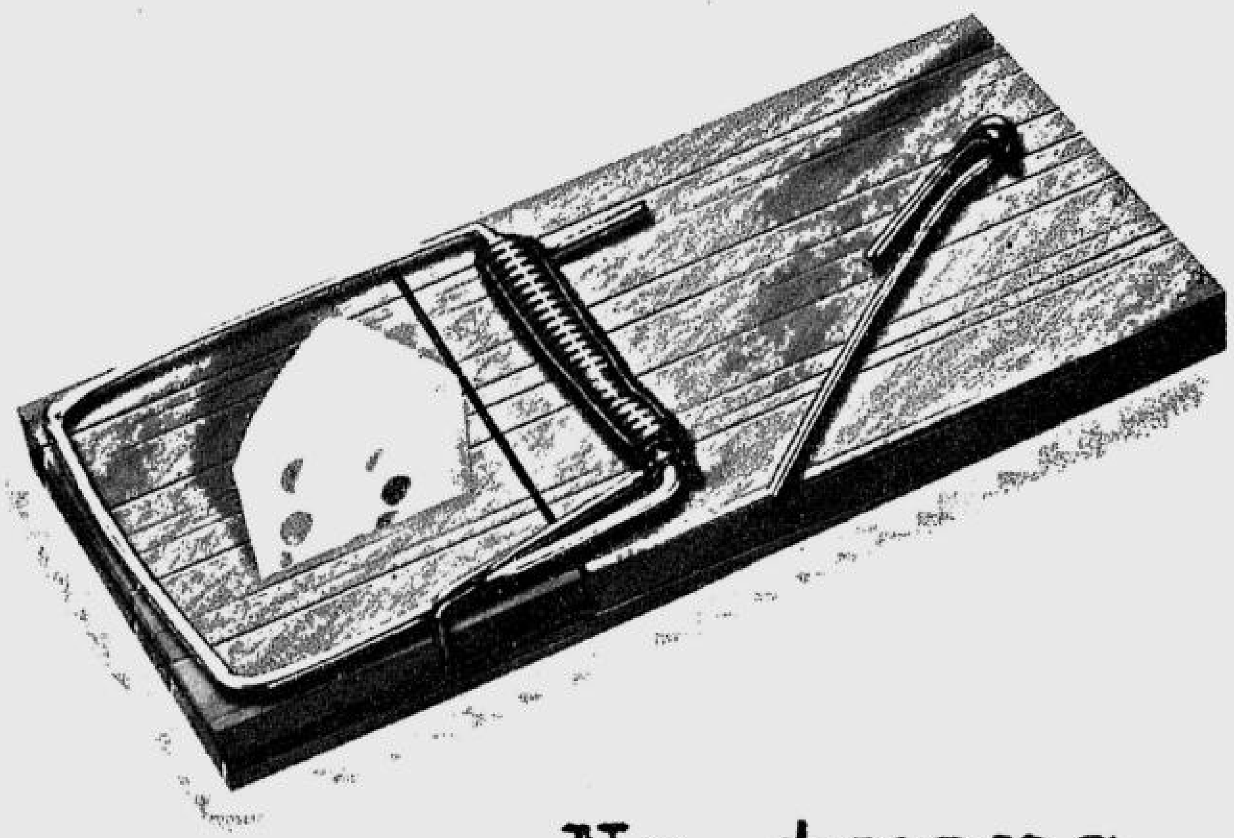
"Life is affected by tobacco, but as long as it is a scientific product, as long as it helps build the economy," Manila welcomes it, he told employees at the factory launch.

Philip Morris, which also built a school for the locals, is now one of Tanauan's biggest investors and employers.

Guingona said excise taxes from tobacco of about P18 billion ($342 million) help shore up Manila's narrow tax base.

He said Manila was looking to Philip Morris' help to boost domestic leaf production, which slid to 68,200 tons worth P2.6 billion in 2001—a meager 1.74 kg per hectare.

Philip Morris "intends to buy increasing amounts of tobacco here each year for our domestic requirements," said its country managing director Chris Nelson. *AFP*



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Mangroves -- it's one of Mother Nature's ways of protecting her children from typhoons, hurricanes, and strong waves. From property damage and loss of lives. By trapping sediments, this important ecosystem also prevents soil erosion and promotes land expansion. In Quezon Province this natural barrier has been destroyed by decades of wood gathering, land reclamation, and clearing for prawn and fish farming. Fortunately, with the completion of Mirant's Carbon Sink Initiative, it will once again stand strong to shelter the people around Pagbilao Bay.

CARBON SINK

A comprehensive environmental and economic initiative of Mirant Philippines. It aims to protect watersheds and their abundant marine life; educate the people on the importance of these natural treasures; and assist in improving people's lives by providing, and promoting, more sustainable sources of income.

This undertaking has three components: restoration of 150 hectares of mangrove forest in Pagbilao (classified as the world's second most diverse mangrove ecosystem); rehabilitation of 150 hectares of upland forest; and establishment of a 145-hectare Mangrove Eco-Destination Site. This site could serve as the country's future 'mangrove seedling bank' with its 48 mangrove species and a major eco-destination center for research and education.

Carbon Sink Initiative. It's a new standard for environmental stewardship. And a continuing genuine partnership with government and communities.

MIRANT

Beyond Today, Beyond Energy

METROBRIEFS

Nabbed due to dyed hair

ROBERT Badique's red-dyed hair led to his arrest yesterday after he was accused of kidnapping the 3-year-old daughter of vendor Mariel C. Lacasa in Manila last Tuesday, police said. But Lacasa's daughter has not yet been found, and she now fears that Badique, a beautician, had sold her. She told police that she had left her daughter playing with her 2-year-old brother along C.M. Recto Avenue to heat up the food that she would sell. She said that she heard her son crying and found her daughter missing. She looked for her daughter around the neighborhood, showing her picture, and two witnesses had told her that they saw the girl with a gay with red hair near Binondo Church. A technician, Joel C. Mendoza, also told Lacasa that he saw her daughter at the Cultural Center of the Philippines at about 9 p.m. last Wednesday. He said the girl was crying and two gays were trying to calm her. During a confrontation at the Western Police Headquarters, Badique denied he kidnapped the girl. Lacasa described her daughter as fair-skinned, small for her age. She said she was wearing pyjamas and a blouse with a print of the Power Puff Girls when she disappeared.

Philip C. Tubeza

Stabbed over a necklace

A SILVER necklace led to the killing of scavenger Voltaire C. Ilagan, 32, in Tondo, Manila, last Saturday. Police said Ilagan died from three stab wounds after he was attacked by Allan Alpafara, his neighbor at a housing compound in Vitas, Tondo. Investigation showed that a friend of Alpafara, Gerry Dosal, had earlier pawned his silver necklace to Ilagan for P100. Dosal promised to redeem the necklace the next day for P110. But Dosal was only able to redeem the necklace on Saturday, or five days later. Ilagan insisted that Dosal pay him P150, but both finally settled on P130. They then had a drinking session in the afternoon. Police said that when Alparafa encountered Ilagan later on the staircase, the suspect suddenly stabbed him and escaped. Ilagan was declared dead on arrival at the Tondo General Hospital. Police are now looking for Alparafa.

Philip C. Tubeza

Fake dentists raided

DENTAL groups led by the Philippine Dental Association have issued a warning against fake dentists who offer cheap but inferior "dental appliances" to the public. The illicit trade was uncovered during recent raids conducted by police, the PDA, and the Department of Health in Quiapo, Manila. PDA President Dr. Luis D. Uy said in a press statement that the illegal practice places the public in grave danger as those performing dental operations have very little professional training. He said these acts are gross violations of the Philippine Dental Law as well as the Code of Ethics of dental practitioners. Uy said a series of inspection raids is being planned in areas where there is a concentration of illegal dental labs.

Killing in Quezon City

THE 5-year-old son of William Go, 36, saw their houseboy beat to death his father in their house in Roxas District, Quezon City last Saturday. Police said Go's houseboy, identified only as Kimpert, also emptied his employer's piggy bank before escaping. Go was found dead by his wife in their living room when she returned from the market. A piece of wood was also found beside Go. Police said Go's son had identified Kimpert as his father's killer. He told police that he had seen Kimpert beating his father to death. Go's wife told police that she saw Kimpert sweeping the floor when she left for the market at about 6 a.m. on Saturday. When she returned two hours later, she found her husband dead and Kimpert gone. Police are now hunting down the suspect.

Dewey Joseph Yap and Charlene Tordesillas

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, May 12, 2003
4th Week of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 11:1-18
Gospel: Jn 10:1-10

Jesus said to the Pharisees, "Truly, I say to you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate, but climbs in some other way, is a thief and a robber. But the shepherd of the sheep enters by the gate. The keeper opens the gate to him and the sheep hear his voice; he calls each of his sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them and the sheep follow him for they know his voice. A stranger they will not follow, rather they will run away from him because they don't recognize a stranger's voice."

Jesus used this comparison, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, I am the gate of the sheep. All who came were thieves and robbers, and the sheep did not hear them. I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved; he will go in and out freely and find food.

"The thief comes to steal and kill and destroy, but I have come that they may have life, life in all its fullness."

Commentary

A parent looks at his child approvingly as he says, "He has a mind of his own." To be called a "self-made man and very independent" is no little compliment. "I answer to no one," is the proud declaration of one who has reached the summit of his career. Can our generation which prizes independence and self-sufficiency still appreciate the image of the sheep herded at the call of a shepherd, following his lead to go to pasture grounds? It can if it acknowledges anger and hate, rejection and pain, fear and anxiety, brokenness and despair, limitation and death. It can if it values and hopes for love and friendship, acceptance and forgiveness, truth and justice, life and joy. If it follows the Shepherd, it shall not want for these.

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Atienza stands firm on oil depot case

By Jerome Aning

THE SECURITY and safety of residents of Pandacan and the rest of the city remain as the top priority of Manila Mayor Lito Atienza in resolving the oil depot issue.

"I told the oil firms that before anything else, the security concerns of the Pandacan residents must first be addressed," Atienza said during his weekly press conference on Friday. "They should display genuine commitment in addressing those concerns."

The mayor and Vice Mayor Danilo Lacuna last week met with oil firm executives and energy officials in Malacañang to seek a solution to the oil depot issue.

Atienza said that President Macapagal-Arroyo, who addressed the gathering, had told the group she expects both parties to reach a mutually agreeable solution.

"The President said she sees the totality of the situation and told us the last thing she wants to see is a fuel crisis," Atienza added.

Ms Macapagal wants whatever solution reached to ensure the continuous supply of fuel in Metro Manila and the rest of the country, Atienza said.

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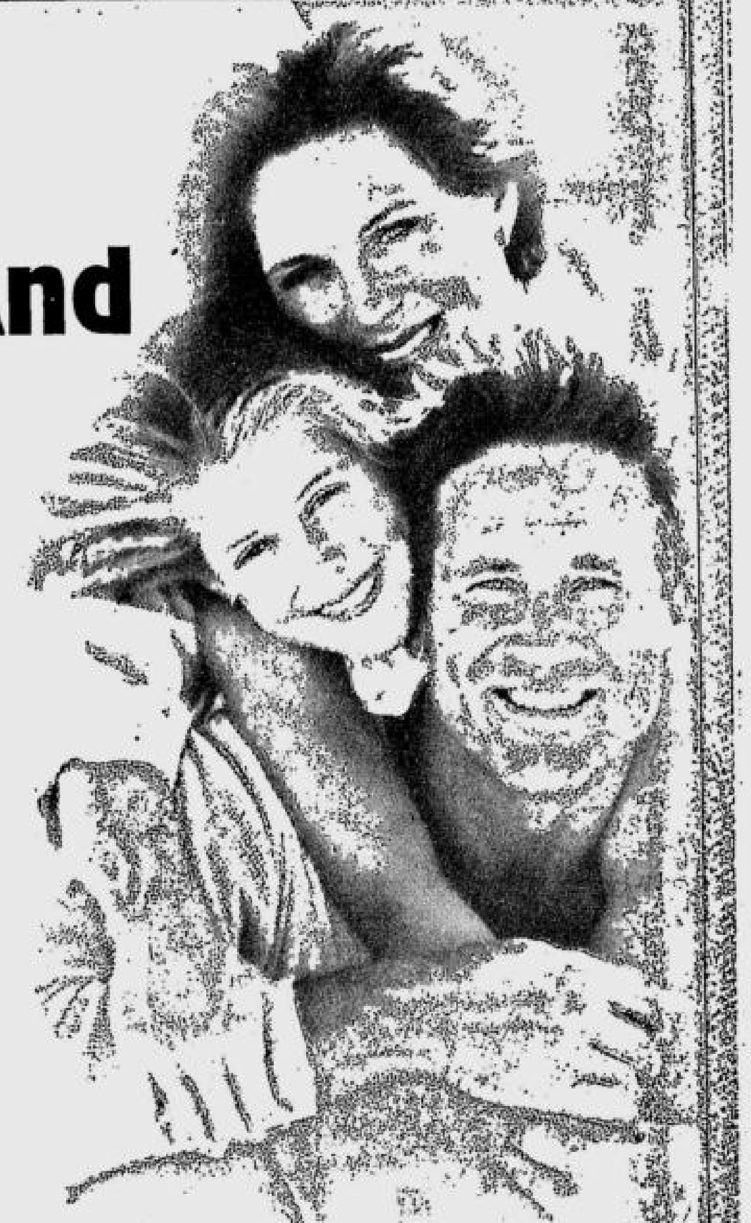

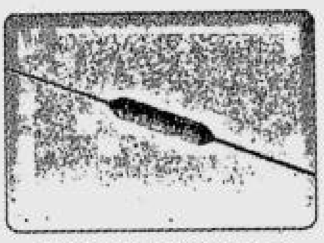

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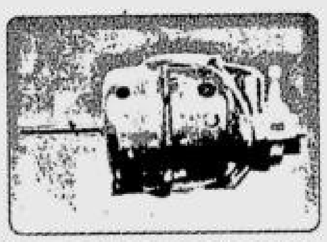

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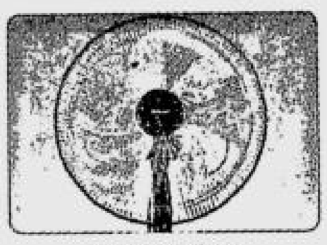

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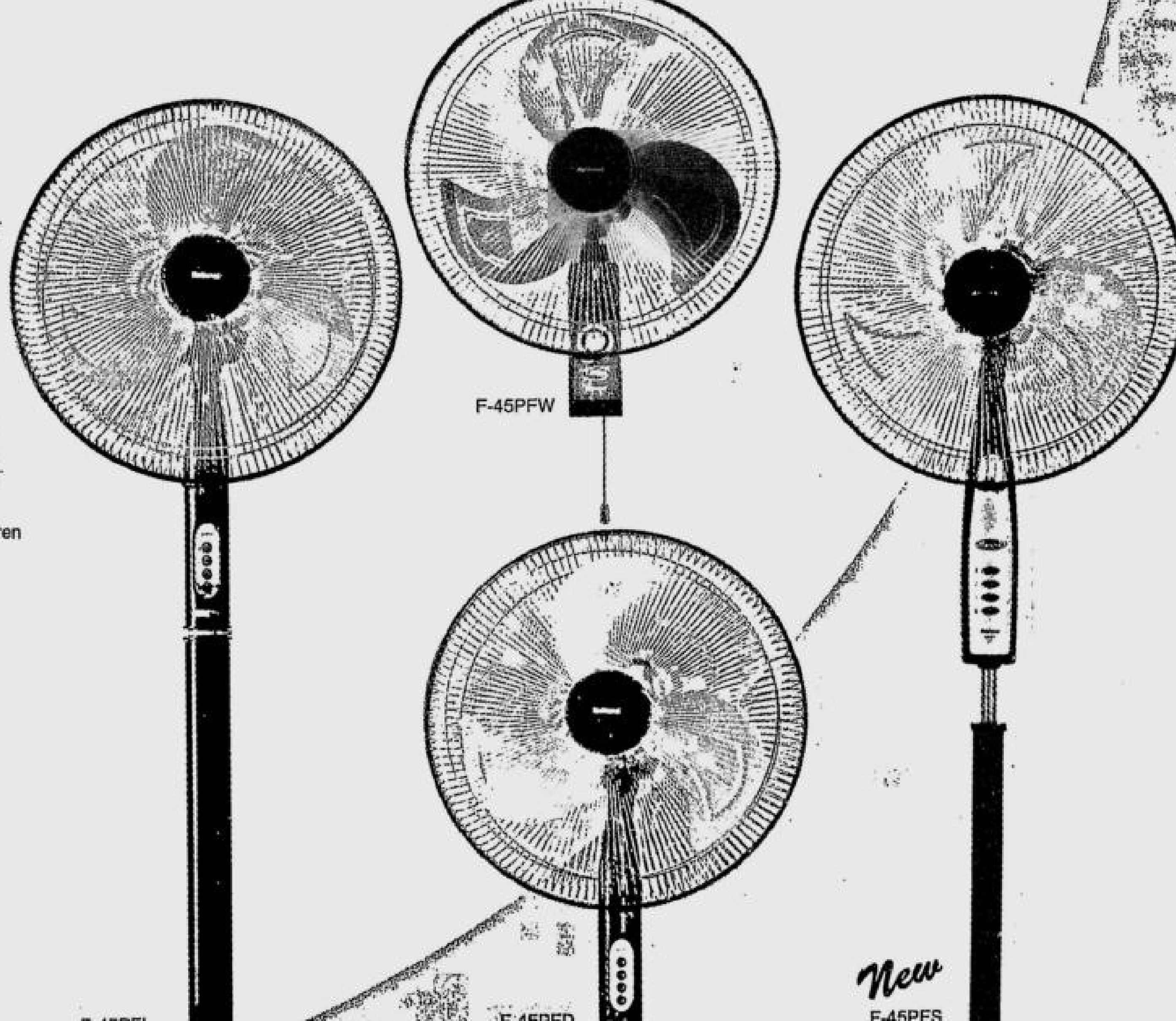

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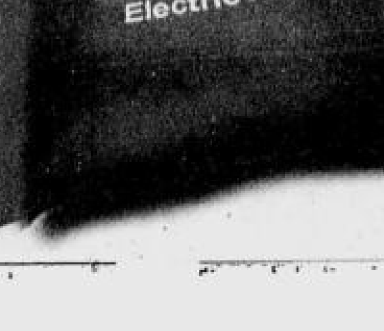

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Inheritance eyed in Japanese slay

By Christian V. Esguerra

POLICE are looking into the possibility that Japanese businessman Hiromasa Murakami had been killed due to inheritance.

A ranking Parañaque police officer yesterday said investigators had received information that Murakami had several assets including a five-door bungalow in Better Living and a food and export business in Marikina.

The victim might have intended to leave these assets to national amateur golf champion Artemio Murakami, 19, his lone son with his Filipina wife Carmelita, the officer said.

The widow, 52, has four other sons in a previous marriage. City police chief Ronald Estilles said two of them run the Murakami business in Marikina.

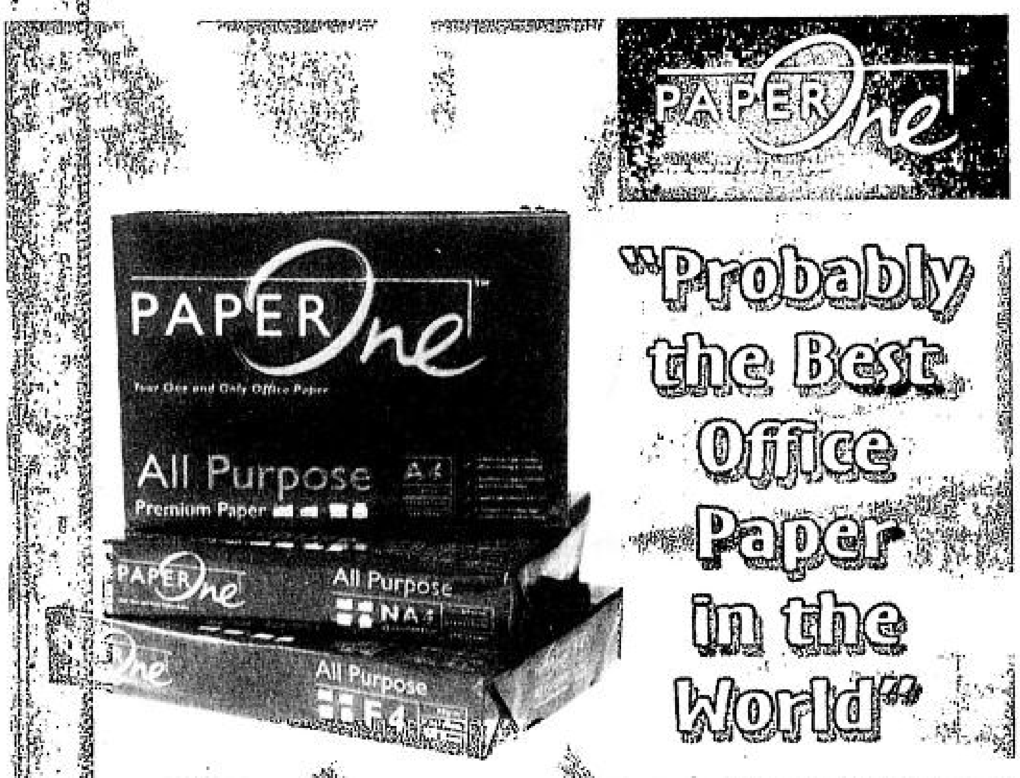
Murakami was killed inside the master bedroom of their house in Better Living last Wednesday.

"We're trying to determine the motive through the process of elimination," an investigator told the INQUIRER. "We've ruled out robbery, love triangle and business dispute. Personal gain (through) inheritance is a possibility."

The new angle was bolstered when Carmelita initially refused a paraffin test due to what she claimed as her hypertension and diabetes. But the widow eventually acceded three days later.

Investigators, however, said the test might not be valid anymore because traces of gunpowder, if there are any, shall have already banished from her hands after 72 hours.

Investigators, he said, were also convinced that Carmelita was withholding vital information after an autopsy of Murakami's body showed that he had been stabbed in the armpit on top of six gunshot wounds.



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PEROCHO (left) and Balte relate their alleged abduction. ERIK ARAZAS

2 'abducted' urban poor ...

From page A24

later told police that they had been brought to Sapang Palay, Bulacan. It was not clear if they escaped or were freed.

While the victims were detained, their relatives and neighbors in Sitio Matatag in Bicutan supposedly got text messages from the abductors, ordering them to draft a resolution expelling the two from the organization.

The Urban Poor Associates, a militant group backing Kislap in its fight against a series of demolitions in its squatter community in Taguig, said soldiers could be behind the supposed abduction.

"It's clear that the incident was related to the land dispute," said UPA official Ted Añana. "Their enemies want them to stop fighting."

Kislap belongs to a network of organizations representing residents who were awarded a 45-hectare property in Western Bicutan by President Macapagal-Arroyo last year.

Despite the proclamation, Añana accused the Department of National Defense of demolishing houses in the area.
Christian V. Esguerra

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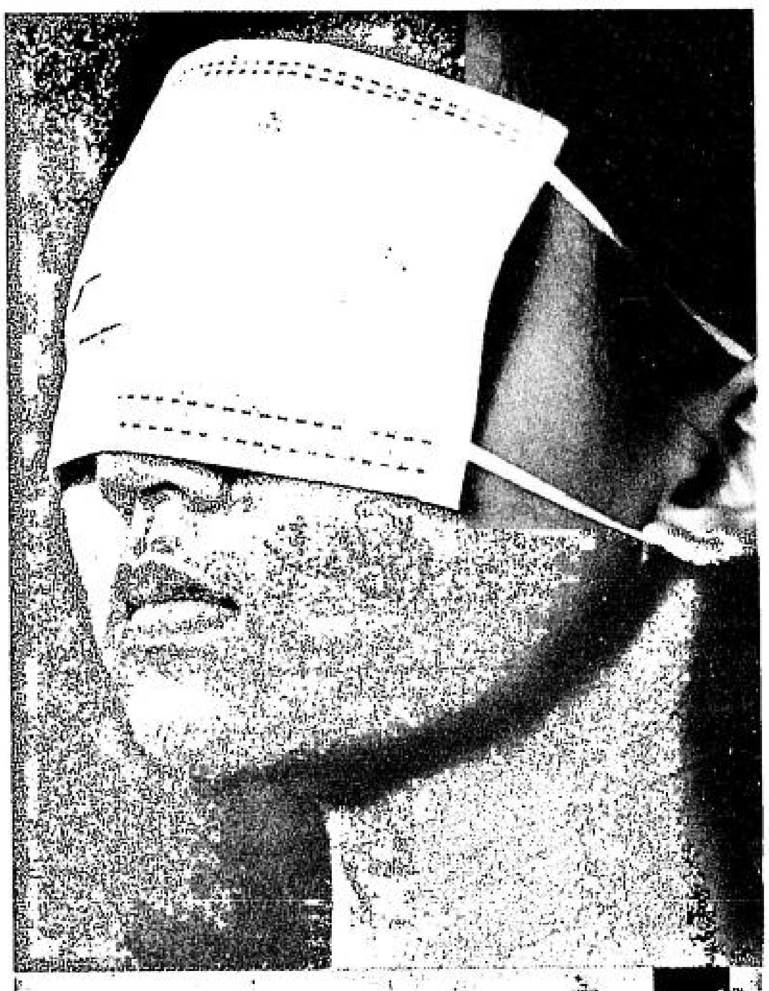

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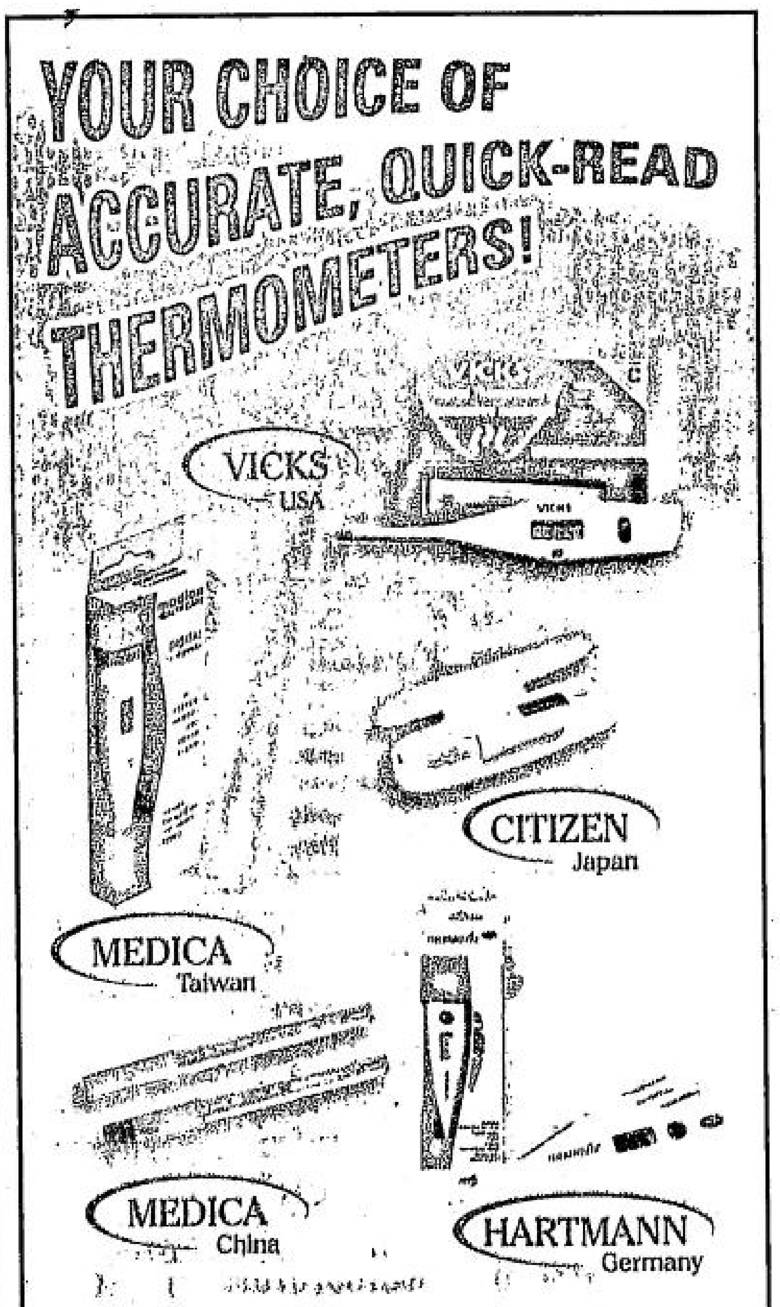

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Guess who came to wedding reception

POLICE have warned wedding parties to keep their eyes on their valuables.

Three women were robbed of nearly P100,000 worth of cash and valuables while they were jostling for the bridal bouquet during a recent wedding reception in Ermita, Manila.

The suspect is a woman who pretended to be a wedding guest at the Dreamhouse, an upscale restaurant at the corner of Taft Avenue and Remedios Street, police said.

Police suspect she could be a member of the Salisi Gang, so-called because the group waits in a public place for their prey to be distracted before walking off with the victim's valuables.

Businesswoman Maria Theresa Santos, 36, of Marulas, Valenzuela, was robbed of P10,000 cash, a Canon camera worth P15,000, a P20,000 wristwatch, a P12,000 Nokia cell phone, a P4,500 Lacoste wallet, a P3,000 key chain and several ATM cards.

Teacher Arlene Candato, 35, lost an P18,000 shoulder bag and a P4,000 Ralph Lauren wallet.

Annabel Malatag, 33, another teacher, was robbed of P700 cash and important papers.

"The bride's family thought she was with the groom's party and vice versa," police said.

Restaurant guards told police they saw the suspect leave the building and thought she owned the things she was carrying.

But police have a lead on the suspect whose picture was taken during the party.

Philip Tubeza, Reuters

ROAD ISLANDS, DIVIDERS TO BE REMOVED

New traffic scheme planned in Makati

By Christian V. Esguerra

AN ONGOING traffic experiment might soon change the landscape of bustling Makati City.

For a start, the city's Central Business District might lose some of its islands and other steel and concrete dividers separating vehicle lanes, according to the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority.

The clearing would pave the way for the implementation of a rotunda-type traffic flow, said Angelito Vergel de Dios, MMDA's Traffic Operations Center director.

Vergel de Dios said the MMDA would implement the system in other major areas in Makati should the CBD experiment become successful.

He did not specify if major thoroughfares such as Ayala and Makati avenues would be covered by the new traffic plan afterward.

The system is similar to the one currently in place at the Ortigas Center where intersections are barricaded to keep vehicles in a counter-clockwise, no-intersection flow.

Vergel de Dios said the MMDA was negotiating with the Pasig and Mandaluyong governments in its plan to rid Ortigas of center islands.

"Functionality is the primary concern here," he told the INQUIRER. "What's the use of keeping a center island and its landscape when it's congesting traffic?"

The result of the experiment in Ortigas will be the basis for the implementation of the new traffic plan in key areas such as Makati and Quezon avenues, according to Vergel de Dios.

On Quezon Avenue, the plan is to close all major intersections stretching from the Quezon Circle to the Mabuhay (formerly Welcome) rotunda in Manila, he said.

The plan kicked off last month with the MMDA closing the left-turn slot on the corner of Roosevelt and Quezon avenues for Edsa-bound vehicles, Vergel de Dios added.

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And because of its high moisture content, Racumin Paste stays attractive to rats even when exposed to hot, humid, and even damp weather conditions. Use it indoors as well as outdoors.

To use, simply put two to three Racumin Paste sachets per bait tray along known rat pathways. No need to open each sachet. Simply use as is. It's that easy! Observe rat consumption of the bait. If there are signs of rat activity like chewed Racumin Paste sachets, the bait is in the correct area. Replenish with more sachets when bait is consumed. The day that consumption stops and you no longer see rat activity is the day you are rat-free!

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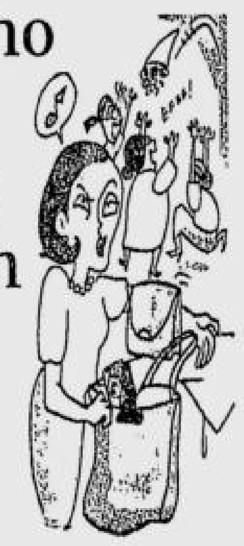

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METRO

E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph
Editor **Abelardo S. Ulanday**

2 'abducted' urban poor leaders surface

TWO URBAN poor leaders allegedly abducted in Makati more than a week ago have finally surfaced.

Bella Balte and Marlyn Perocho of the Kilusang Samahang Layunin ay Pagunlad (Kislap) were found in Lagro, Novaliches, a day after armed men allegedly seized them in Guadalupe, Makati, on April 30, the INQUIRER learned over the weekend.

Balte and Perocho

2 ABDUCTED/ A22

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COMMON SIGHT
Workers use shovels to collect garbage at a Manila dump site as part of a Metro-wide clean-up drive against the deadly Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) virus. REUTERS

Metro 'toxic' waste seized

WASTE described as hazardous and allegedly from Metro Manila hospitals are being dumped in an illegal dump site in two Pampanga towns, according to police.

Supt. Eliseo Capili, police chief of Magalang town, said his men on Saturday night intercepted a truck carrying at least 20 plastic bags of waste from these hospitals.

If not disposed properly, hospital waste could pose health hazards, according to scientists.

Capili said the waste came from Chevalier Enviro Service Inc. in Metro Manila and were supposed to be dumped in a private garbage site near two Mt. Pinatubo resettlement sites in Magalang and in Mabalacat town.

The truck was registered to Edgar Gallardo of Barangay Arenas in Arayat town, Capili said.

Gallardo admitted that he is a contractor for Cesi, according to Magalang Mayor Pastor Guiao. But Gallardo claimed that the waste he was transporting had been treated.

Technicians from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources will confirm today whether the waste from the intercepted truck were treated or not.

Dan Ramos, owner of the dump site does not have a permit to operate the garbage facility from the municipal government, said Guiao.

Police acted on complaints of Ruperto Bayani and Ernesto Santo, barangay captains of San Isidro and Santa Lucia resettlement sites, respectively.

Some 3,000 families displaced by the 1991 Mt. Pinatubo eruptions live in the resettlement sites.

The one-hectare dumpsite, which is near a river, sits at the boundary of Mabalacat town and the Madapdap resettlement, where another 4,000 families live.

Rico Canlapan, a resident of Madapdap, said the illegal dumping has been operating for a year.

At the open dump site, the INQUIRER saw used syringes, rubber surgical gloves, empty plastic dextrose vials and empty medicine bottles, and mounds of trash, which were then covered with sand.

"We are worried about the effect of this illegal dump on public health," Guiao said. "We cannot allow this to continue. These are hospital wastes, not ordinary domestic trash."

Police have set up checkpoints to prevent the entry of more trucks from Cesi. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

LATE SPORTS

Ginebra ends 5-game skid

GAMES WEDNESDAY (Philsports)
5:00 p.m.— Purefoods vs FedEx
7:30 p.m.—SMB vs Coca-Cola

ERIC Menk was a tower of power as Barangay Ginebra ended a five-game skid with a 99-82 victory over Talk N Text last night in the Samsung PBA All-Filipino Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

The 6-foot-6 Menk notched 30 points, grabbed nine rebounds and issued four assists for the Kings, who improved to 5-11 and boosted their bid for a quarterfinals berth.

Ginebra coach Allan Caidic said the win was a morale-booster for his wards.

"It's a breakout win for us. I'm hoping that we can use this as a springboard going into our last two matches," said Caidic, referring to Ginebra's remaining games against Red Bull and Shell Velocity.

Shell stayed slightly ahead of Ginebra following a 78-73 triumph over Sta. Lucia Realty in the second game.

The Turbochargers raised their record to 5-10 while the Realtors fell to 8-8.

Menk was assisted by Estong Ballesteros and Mark Caguioa, who struck from the outside, in giving the Kings their first big lead at 57-33, from which the Phone Pals never recovered.

Ginebra avenged its 87-90 loss to Talk N Text last April 22 and pulled down the Phone Pals to 9-7.

More sports on A25-A32

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Sacrifices pay off for Quirimit

Tanduay skipper coasts to victory in Tour Pilipinas bikathon

By June Navarro

"WITH all the sacrifices I made, I really deserve this victory."

This was the triumphant cry of Arnel Quirimit yesterday after coasting home in the 15th and final lap to officially rule the Tour Pilipinas 2003 bikathon championship before a huge Sunday crowd at the Quirino Grandstand in Luneta.

With the thrill and suspense gone after the armyman from Pozorrubio, Pangasinan opened up an unassailable lead the other day, Quirimit merely went through the motion of wrapping up the title that eluded him in 1998.

The 27-year-old Quirimit finished with a big group of riders 49 seconds after lap winner Bernard Luzon had crossed the line and joined a long list of bikathon champions from Pangasinan with a final overall margin of five minutes and 20 seconds at the end of the 16-day grind.

As expected, the rest of the top 10 standings after the penultimate lap held with Merculio Ramos clinching second place and Warren Davadilla, who beat Quirimit for the 1998 crown, taking third place this time.

Ryan Tanguilig settled for fourth overall with Ronaldo Gorrantes, Enrique Domingo, Luzon, Lloyd Reynante, Alfie Catalan and Felix Celeste rounding out the Magic 10 list.

With the winner's purse of P200,000, Quirimit, a bachelor, wound up with earnings of P258,000 in the individual division.

The Tanduay skipper, whose three laps win were equaled by Luzon, will also share in the P100,000 prize for the Distillers' fourth place finish in team race won by Intel.

"It's hard to make a living out of cycling so I intend to save all my earnings," said Quirimit, adding his hard work finally paid off this time.

Quirimit cited his relentless training in the national team, particularly in the Tour de Langkawi in February, as the

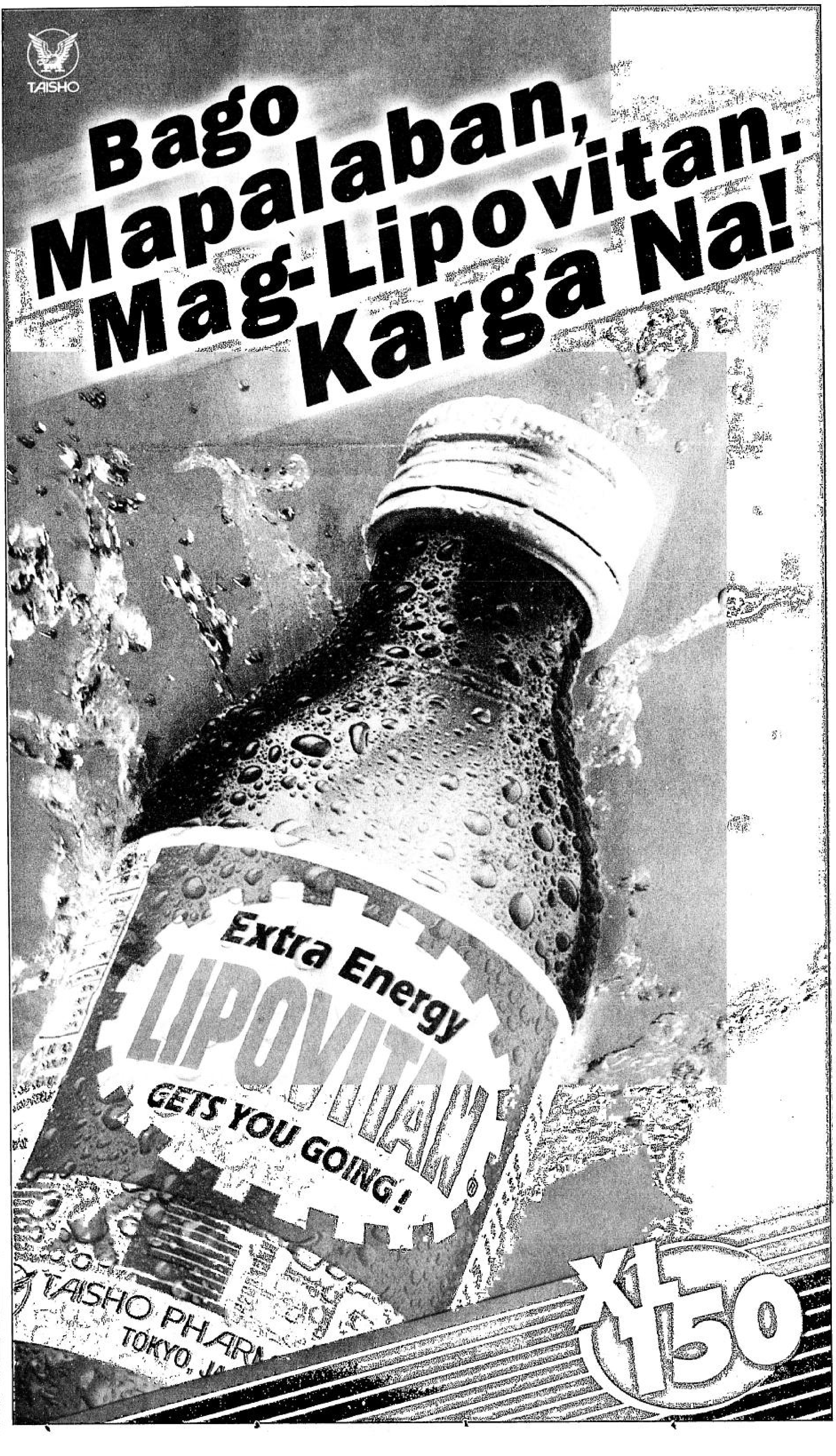
SACRIFICES/ A26

WHAT'S INSIDE

Mavs get big lift from Van Exel /A28

Wind Blown blown away /A31

Kentucky Derby Winner probed /A30



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TOMAS MORATO ☎ 371.1473	VERSE 2	NO ENTRANCE FEE

MAY 12, MONDAY 421-6738

Sacrifices pay off for Quirimit

From page A25

chief reason behind his success.

"Almost all of the big guns in the international cycling scene were there. I didn't fare well in Langkawi but the exposure made me tougher here in the Tour," said Quirimit, who competed in the annual event with Ramos and Davadilla.

Although placing 68th overall in the field of 170 in Langkawi, Quirimit ended up 11th in the Asian category.

Ramos, who held the yellow jersey for six days, pocketed P100,000 for second place and Davadilla, a two-lap winner and best finisher among previous Tour champions in the field, got P75,000 for third.

In clinching his third lap victory, Luzon charged home in three hours, 32 minutes and 24 seconds, nosing out Gorrantes at the end of the 150-km Luneta criterium. Catalan was third for the day as he showed the way for the main pack that included Quirimit and the other top 10 riders.

Quirimit posted a total time of 55 hours, 29 minutes and 20 seconds in the revival of this bikathon presented by Air 21 and sponsored by Accel, BPI-MS, Lipovitan, Longines, Look-Vittoria and Selle Italia.

Domingo was the runaway Sprint King winner and pocketed the P30,000 prize that went with it together with a Longines watch worth P40,000.

Intel clinched the P1 million top team prize as expected while the Postmen settled for the runner-up prize of P500,000. Samsung bagged P200,000 as third placer.

Although Pangasinenses have dominated this event, Quirimit is the first true-blue champion from Pangasinan since Pepito Calip of Binalonan won in 1985. Although Bernard Llentada is on record as a Pangasinense from San Nicolas when he won in 1991, he actually grew up and competed as an Antipolo, Rizal rider.

Llentada ended up 77th, the worst performance among former Tour winners. Two-time winner Renato Dolosa was 14th, Carlo Guieb, also a two-time champion, was 27th and Rolando Pagnanawon wound up 41st.

Indy qualifying washed out

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana—Rain washed out pole position qualifying for the 87th Indianapolis 500 on Saturday, but not before Billy Boat was injured in a crash in the hectic morning practice session.

Boat was released from hospital after he was examined following the Saturday morning practice crash. According to doctor Henry Bock, Indy Racing League director of medical services, Boat will be re-examined Sunday morning at the infield medical center before he can be cleared for pole qualifying, which was rescheduled for Sunday.

Boat's crash came as severe thunderstorms were on the horizon, but IRL officials were hoping the weather would bypass the speedway.

Boat's car hit the fourth turn and began to spin before making contact with the attenuator that protects the abutment to the pit wall. The car became airborne before landing, spinning and coming to a stop. Boat complained of pain between his shoulder blades.

Shortly after the crash, heavy rain and lightning forced the IRL to scrap qualifying. Practice will begin Sunday at noon, with qualifying set to begin two hours later and last five hours.

It was the first time Pole Day has been completely washed out since 1990 and it left many of the competitors feeling a bit disappointed.

During practice, New Zealand's Scott Dixon turned a lap at 233.236 miles per hour, making it the fastest at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway since 1996.

"I got a tow off one of the Penske cars that brought that number up," Dixon said. *AFP*

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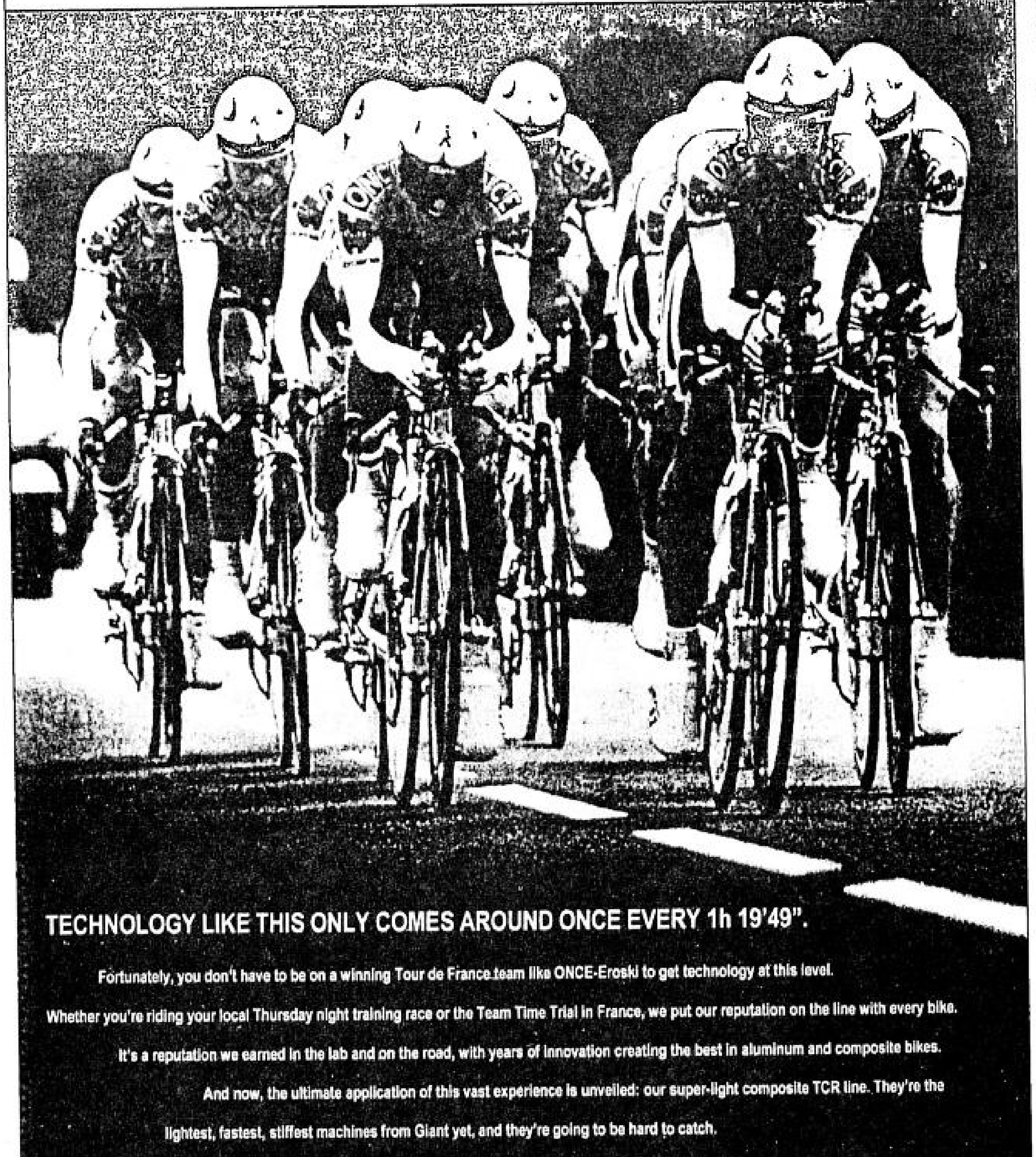

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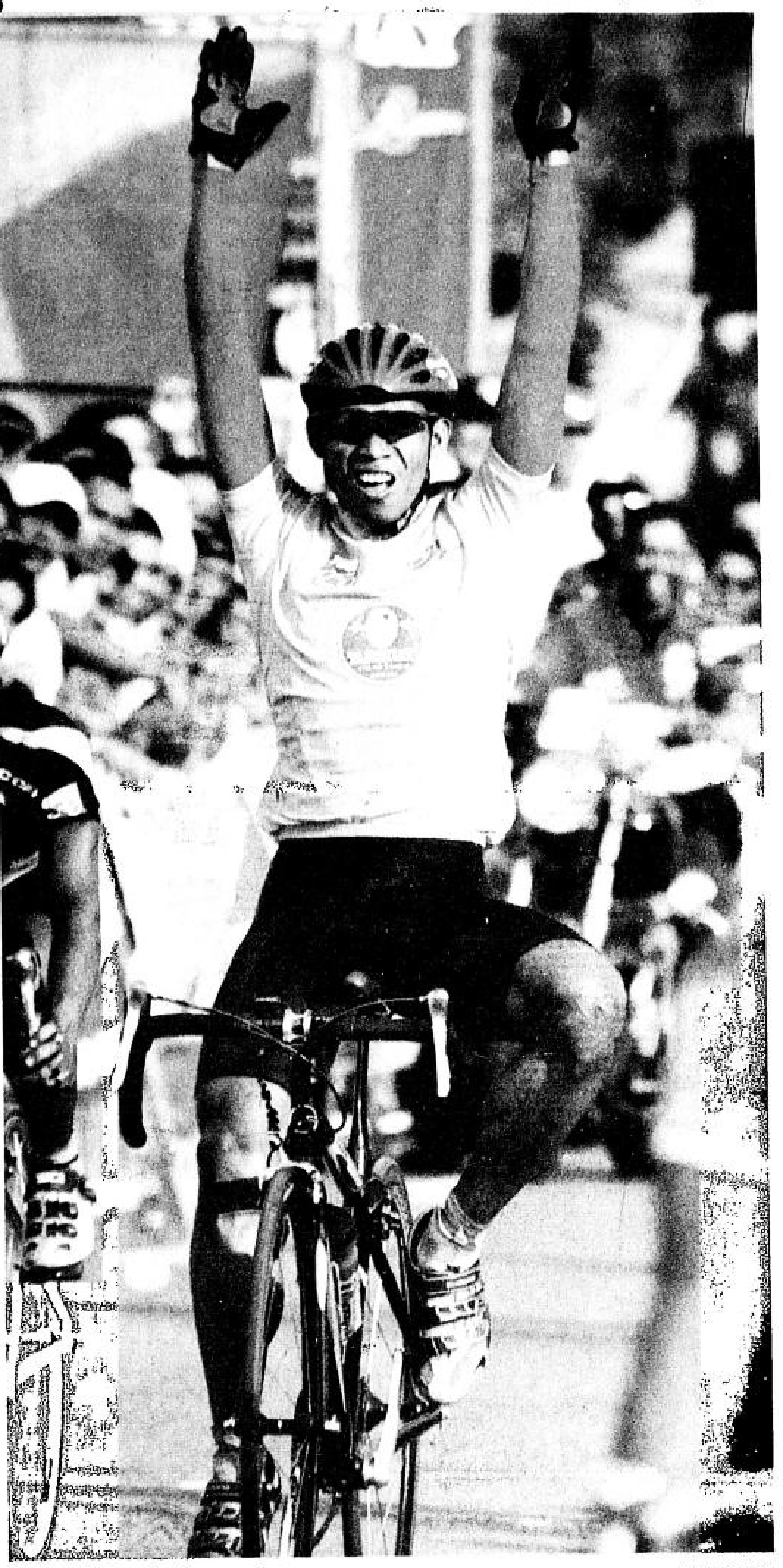

QUIRIMIT: Coasting home to victory

VAL HANDUMON

Overall Standings

1	ARNEL	QUIRIMIT	TAN	55h29'20.633
2	MERCULIO	RAMOS	SAM	00h05'20.861
3	WARREN	DAVADILLA	INT	00h05'38.693
4	RHYAN	TANGUILIG	PAG	00h09'48.722
5	RONALD	GORRANTES	ECO	00h13'05.541
6	ENRIQUE	DOMINGO	POS	00h14'04.303
7	BERNARD	LUZON	PAT	00h17'12.799
8	LLOYD	REYNANTE	PAG	00h18'10.013
9	ALFIE	CATALAN	BOW	00h32'03.591
10	FELIX	CELESTE	VAT	00h34'55.945
11	PLACIDO	VALDEZ	DRU	00h35'31.681
12	ALBERT	PRIMERO	PLD	00h39'04.783
13	ARNOLD	MARCELO	POS	00h40'10.582
14	RENATO	DOLOSA	GIL	00h41'05.197
15	JOSEPH	MILLANES	TAN	00h45'15.824
16	SANTI	BARNACHEA	BOW	00h48'52.889
17	FREDERICK	FELICIANO	DRU	00h49'24.772
18	DANNY	GANIGAN	SAM	00h53'30.406
19	SHERWIN	DIAMSAY	VAT	01h06'20.034
20	LITO	ATILANO	GIL	01h14'50.310
21	CARLO	JAZUL	ECO	01h18'52.223
22	FERNANDO	ALAGANO	INT	01h19'23.661
23	REYNALDO	NAVARRO	POS	01h29'36.469
24	PATERNO	CURTAN	ECO	01h31'13.412
25	JOEL	CALDERON	VAT	01h36'48.243
26	ERICSON	OBOSA	TAN	01h42'52.031
27	CARLO	GUIEB	ECO	01h49'26.815
28	REINHARD	GORANTES	PAT	01h50'17.845
29	NILO	ESTAYO	INT	01h56'40.100
30	MANUEL	MENDOZA	SAM	02h02'19.475
31	EUSEBIO	QUIÑONES	PAT	02h05'46.039
32	PAULO	MANAPOL	INT	02h14'38.883
33	ARTHURS	BUCAY	INT	02h20'59.048
34	GERRY	AMAR	PAT	02h25'41.815
35	ERIC	TOLENTINO	TAN	02h30'35.991
36	WILFREDO	CALOSA	POS	02h31'29.704
37	JOEL	GUILLEN	PAG	02h45'45.843
38	MICHAEL	REYES	INT	02h50'03.988
39	DIONISIO	POSILERO	PAT	02h50'30.341
40	AVELINO	BAYUGA	VAT	02h56'14.362
41	ROLANDO	PAGNANAWON	BOW	03h09'40.301
42	RODELIO	VALDEZ	SAM	03h18'36.782
43	NOLI	DEL ROSARIO	PLD	03h21'47.060
44	OSCAR	FRONDA	PLD	03h21'48.242
45	RYAN	MENDOZA	PAT	03h24'09.522
46	JAY	TOLENTINO	PAG	03h29'13.694
47	MICHAEL	GONOWON	BOW	03h30'43.985
48	ARNEL	ESPINO	PAG	03h35'36.897
49	BENITO	LOPEZ	VAT	03h49'35.292
50	OSCAR	RENDOLE	DRU	03h50'40.481
51	MICHAEL	PRIMERO	GIL	03h51'15.930
52	RUEL	CASALJAY	GIL	03h54'00.518
53	RAZON	GALDONEZ	INT	03h55'40.281
54	DOMINADOR	TACU-TACU	SAM	03h56'22.052
55	JESSIE	BACUDO	PLD	03h57'00.001
56	ALFREDO	MAPA	BOW	03h57'43.440
57	JUNE	VILLANUEVA	PAG	03h59'26.602
58	GARRY	APOLINAR	SAM	03h59'38.453

15TH LAP RESULTS

1	BERNARD	LUZON	PAT	32'24.500
2	RONALD	GORRANTES	ECO	00'14.67 behind
3	ALFIE	CATALAN	BOW	same
4	PATERNO	CURTAN	ECO	same
5	RHYAN	TANGUILIG	PAG	same
6	FREDERICK	FELICIANO	DRU	same
7	NILO	ESTAYO	INT	00'39.18 behind
8	HILARIO	LADRA	ECO	same
9	PLACIDO	VALDEZ	DRU	same
10	MICHAEL	JUSTINIANO	ECO	same
11	LITO	ATILANO	GIL	same
12	VIRGILIO	ESPIRITU	ECO	same
13	ALBERT	PRIMERO	PLD	same
14	REYNALDO	ASUNCION	GIL	same
15	FELIX	CELESTE	VAT	same
16	OSCAR	ESPIRITU	TAN	same
17	MERCULIO	RAMOS	SAM	same
18	FERNANDO	ALAGANO	INT	same
19	RAZON	GALDONEZ	INT	same
20	DANNY	GANIGAN	SAM	same
21	CARLO	JAZUL	ECO	same
22	ARNEL	QUIRIMIT	TAN	same
23	ERIC	TOLENTINO	TAN	same
24	REINHARD	GORANTES	PAT	same
25	DOMINADOR	TACU-TACU	SAM	same
26	DESI	HARDIN	GIL	same
27	ENRIQUE	DOMINGO	POS	same
28	JOSEPH	MILLANES	TAN	same
29	RANIER	AUSTRIA	PLD	same
30	ERICSON	OBOSA	TAN	same
31	RYAN	MENDOZA	PAT	same
32	CARLO	GUIEB	ECO	same
33	WILFREDO	CALOSA	POS	same
34	LLOYD	REYNANTE	PAG	same
35	WARREN	DAVADILLA	INT	same
36	SHERWIN	CARERA	POS	same
37	RICHARD	AQUINO	SAM	same
38	SHERWIN	DIAMSAY	VAT	same
39	JAY	TOLENTINO	PAG	same
40	MARCIAL	ROBOSA	VAT	same

OVERALL TEAM STANDINGS

PL	TEAM	TIMED	DEFICIT
1	INTEL	219h15'46.1	
2	POSTMEN	219h32'21.6	00h16'35.53
3	SAMSUNG	219h50'08.1	00h34'21.99
4	TANDUAY RHUM RIDERS	219h58'06.0	00h42'19.86
5	ECO SAVERS	220h18'42.9	01h02'56.82
6	PATROL 117	220h53'15.4	01h37'29.30
7	VAT RIDERS	220h56'43.7	01h40'57.58
8	PAGCORSPORTS	221h29'39.6	02h13'53.53
9	BOWLING GOLD	221h53'28.8	02h37'42.68
10	GILBEYS ISLAND PUNCH	222h50'01.1	03h34'14.96
11	DRUG BUSTERS	222h57'42.8	03h41'56.75
12	PLDT-NDD	224h38'49.1	05h23'03.00

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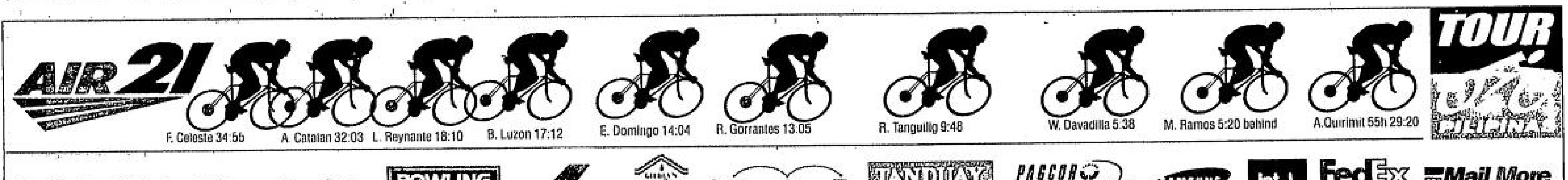

Daily Individual Time Update

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Tubod's dreams torn to shreds

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

THE WAR in Mindanao has escalated early this year–and it's been getting hotter since then–forcing Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain to postpone indefinitely the much-awaited Palarong Pambansa at the spanking new P500-million Mindanao Civic Center in Tubod, Lanao del Norte.

This will mark the fourth time that the province has been denied the privilege of hosting the Palaro, a two-level meet for elementary and high school students. In 1997, Lanao del Norte lost its bid to host the games to Pangasinan. It was forced to withdraw in 1998 due to the economic crisis that struck Asia and, in 2000 and 2002, failed to host the meet anew.

"We are of course disappointed," said Gov. Imelda Quibranza-Dimaporo, prime mover of the oft-postponed Palaro in an interview. "Still, this postponement has not hampered our preparations and it will never dampen our spirits. We are ready to stage the games even today."

Buhain said the PSC decided to postpone the Palaro (set May 18-25) because of the raging armed conflicts between the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front in some parts of Mindanao and the feeling of insecurity and fears among concerned parents and athletes.

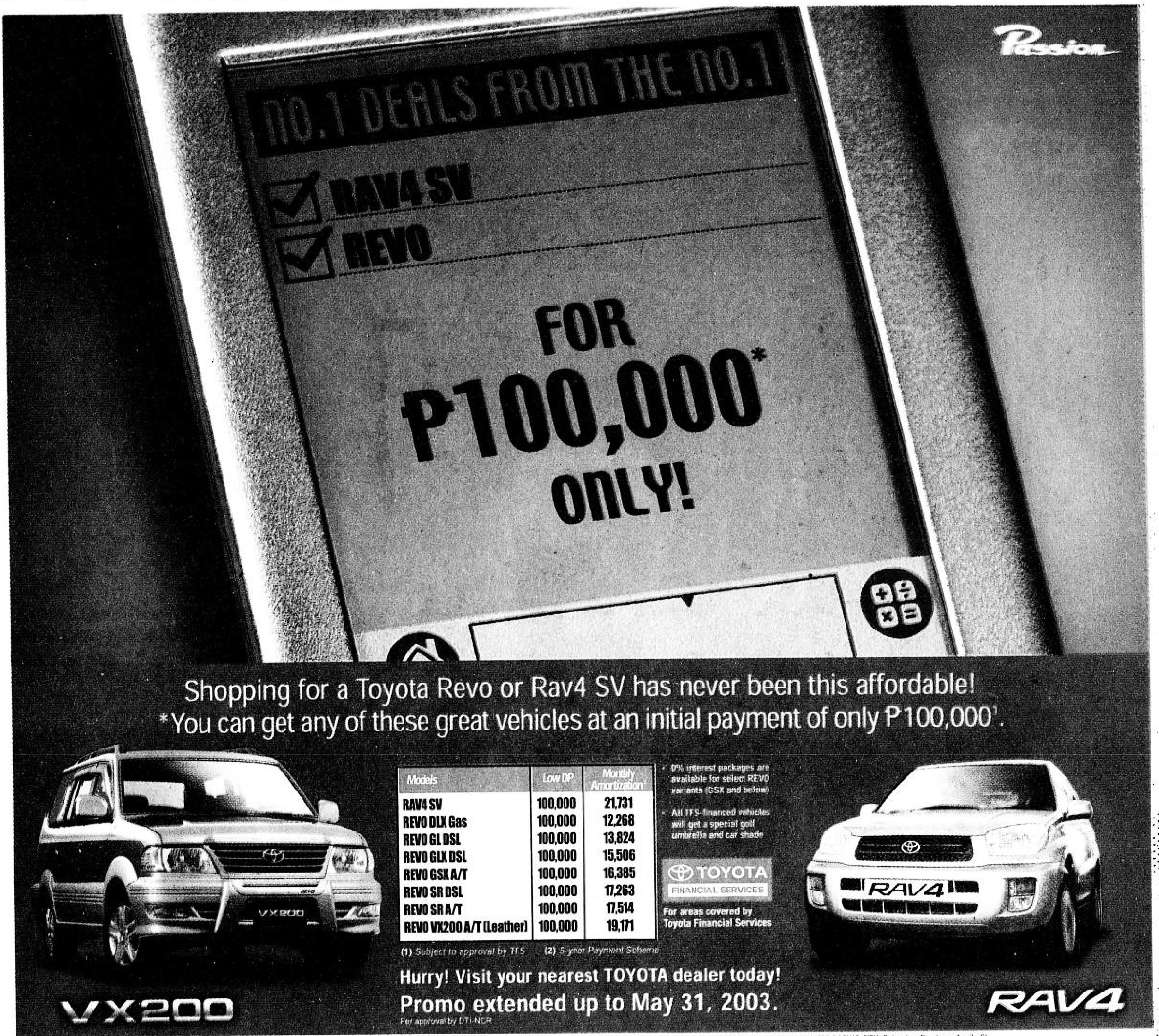
"There is wariness among us," said a disheartened mother. "Even if our children stand to lose that golden chance of competing in this sporting event of their young lives, we are firm in our decision not to send them to the Palaro because we are afraid that many innocent lives would be lost in case the conflict continues."

Just late last month, MILF rebels attacked Kolambugan and Maigo, two towns nearest Tubod, resulting in the death of at least 16 people and injuring many others, most of them civilians, forcing many parents to finally decide against sending their children to Tubod. In fact, athletic delegations from several regions across the country, led by defending champion Western Visayas and the National Capital Region, have also withdrawn from the Palaro, citing security reasons.

So now there will be more months of waiting for the Palaro. Many people I talked to said the postponement of the Palaro was truly a lost opportunity, depriving the Filipino youth of the rare chance to showcase their talents in an honest-to-goodness sports meet where student-athletes even from dramatically diverse backgrounds can play to win and play fair, a meet that bridges the gap between rich and poor, between a wide variety of ethnic delegations.

***

NOTHING SERIOUS, REALLY. I hope that my esteemed friend, the much admired Rudy Salud, would get well soonest and leave his sick bed at the St. Luke's Hospital. Really, there's nothing serious. Rudy just needed that well-deserved rest from his daily grind... Kudos to the famous Madlambayan brothers, champion cockers from Pampanga, for winning the recent NCA 7-cock derby at the Big Dome. Their entry, Clear Cut-Jimafer Mulawin, scored six points to finish co-winners with RT 114 JV Binangonan.



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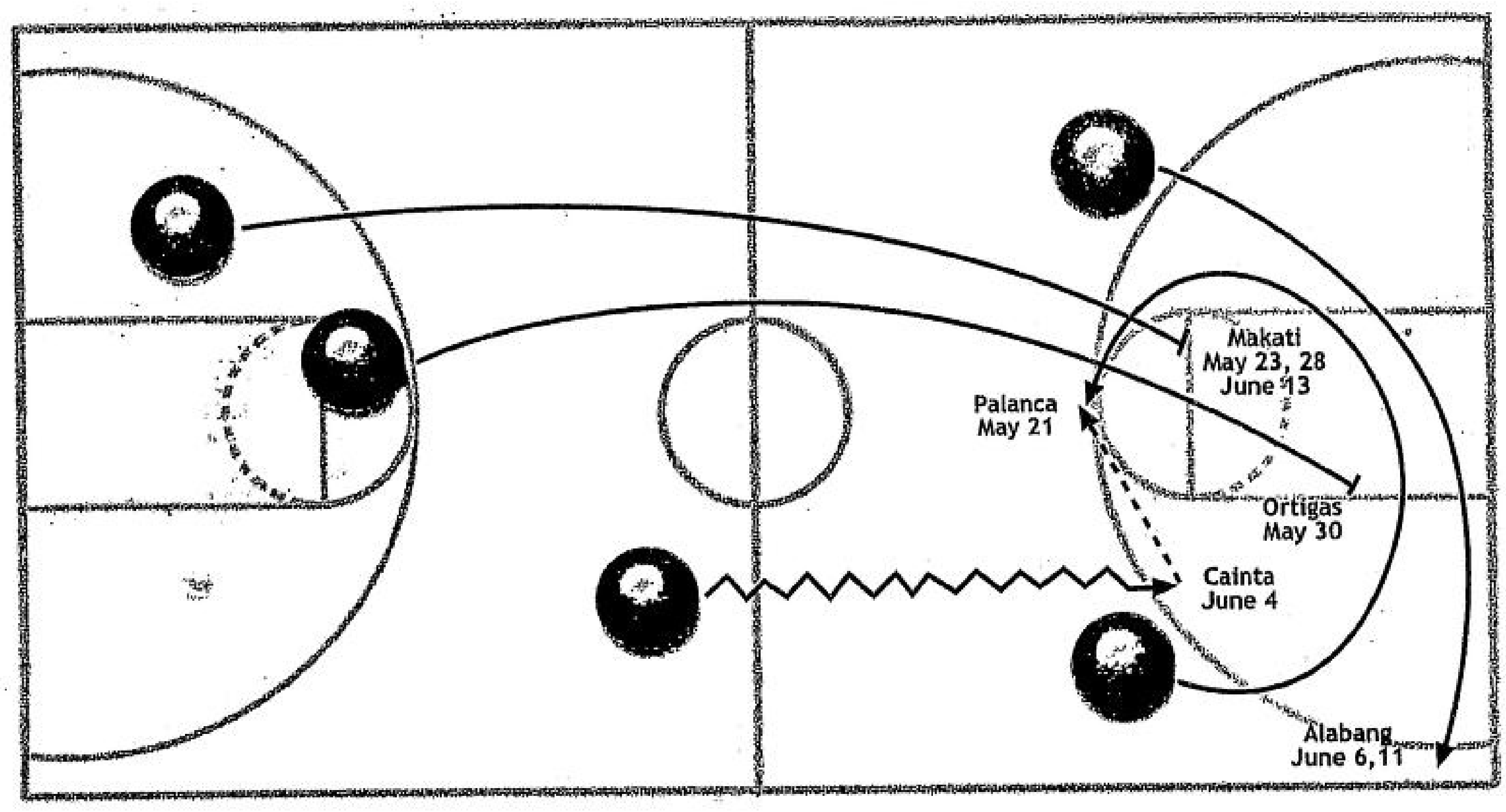

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	30	Smokin' Cue, Megamall / Side Bar, El Pueblo/ San Mig, El Pueblo/ Via Mare, Tektite Bldg.
June	4	Friday's, Sta. Lucia/ Padi's Point, Cainta
	6	San Mig, Alabang/ Vivere Hotel/ Parque España
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Mavs get big lift from Van Exel

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The victory gave Dallas a 2-1 lead in their best-of-seven Western Conference semifinal series. In the East on Saturday, Philadelphia climbed back into their semi-final series with a 93-83 game three victory over Detroit.

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Van Exel rallied the Mavericks with fearless shooting in the fourth quarter, forced overtime with a running jumper with 3.8 seconds left and struck again in the second overtime with the go-ahead 3-pointer and the clinching free throws.

The veteran guard with the lefthanded launch and perpetual sneer made 14-of-26 shots, including 6-of-12 from the arc. He led an offense that seems to set records every time it takes the court.

"He made big, big plays again all night," Sacramento coach Rick Adelman said. "Tonight he just played great. He gives them a huge boost." Dallas also got a big lift from Walt Williams, a former King who scored all 10 of his points in the extra sessions.

"It was definitely big," Williams said of the win after the teams split the first two games of the series in Dallas. "They came in our place and got a win, they took home court advantage. It was definitely big to get that back." Game four is in Sacramento on Sunday, when Philadelphia also hosts Detroit.

In Philadelphia, the 76ers snapped the Pistons' five-game playoff winning streak and narrowed the gap in the best-of-seven series to 2-1 Kenny Thomas, playing in his first postseason, had 10 points and 14 rebounds, setting the pace with his energy.

Philadelphia had 12 offensive rebounds while Detroit managed just seven defensive boards. That led to 21 second-chance points for the 76ers, who opened a 48-37 halftime lead.

"We came out real aggressive in the first half as far as rebounding and playing defense," Thomas said. "We were trying to set the tempo for the game. Myself, I was ready to go. I felt like we needed a win bad. If somebody is playing hard on this team, everybody else will follow. We just came out, picked it up and got it going in the first quarter." "At halftime, they had nearly half their points on second shots," Pistons coach Rick Carlisle said. "That's not a good sign for us, so we're going to have to match their level of aggression on the boards." Thomas may have been too energetic. With just under four minutes left in the third quarter, he suffered a strained right quadriceps trying to track down a rebound. He limped to the locker room and did not return.

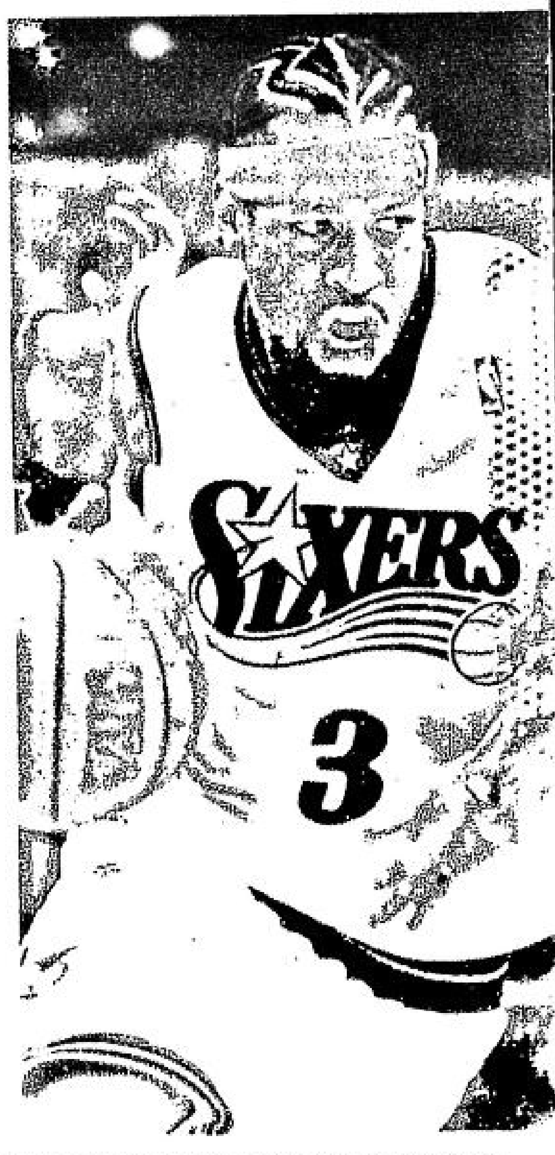
By that time, the Sixers had a 64-44 lead. They maintained a double-digit lead thereafter as Allen Iverson and Keith Van Horn paced the offense.

Iverson had 25 points and 11 assists and Van Horn broke out of a slump with 17 points for the Sixers, who held a 48-30 advantage on the backboards and had 27 second-chance points.

Iverson scored 11 points in the final period to repel a half-hearted rally by the Pistons, who never got within single digits.

With game four 24 hours away, health is an issue for both teams. Pistons guard Chauncey Billups sat out his second straight game with a sprained ankle and was questionable for Sunday's game. In addition to Thomas, Sixers Derrick Coleman and Eric Snow went to the locker room early for treatment of nagging injuries.

AFP



GAME HEROES: Dallas' Nick Van Exel (top) and Philadelphia's Allen Iverson.

AT A GLANCE

NBA PLAYOFFS 2003

SECOND ROUND

Eastern Conference

(1) Detroit vs. (4) Philadelphia

Pistons 2, Sixers 1
Game 1: Detroit 98, Philadelphia 87
Game 2: Detroit 104, Philadelphia 97
Game 3: Philadelphia 93, Detroit 83
Game 4 at Philadelphia (May 12, 8 a.m.)
*Game 5 at Detroit (May 15, TBD)
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(2) New Jersey vs (6) Boston

Nets 3, Celtics 0
Game : New Jersey 97, Boston 93
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Game 3: New Jersey 94, Boston 76
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SPORTSTV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

BASKETBALL: Spurs vs Lakers, Game 4; 9 a.m. (r - 7 p.m.); IBC 13 - Battered and bruised, the defending champions hope to get back in the series as they host San Antonio.

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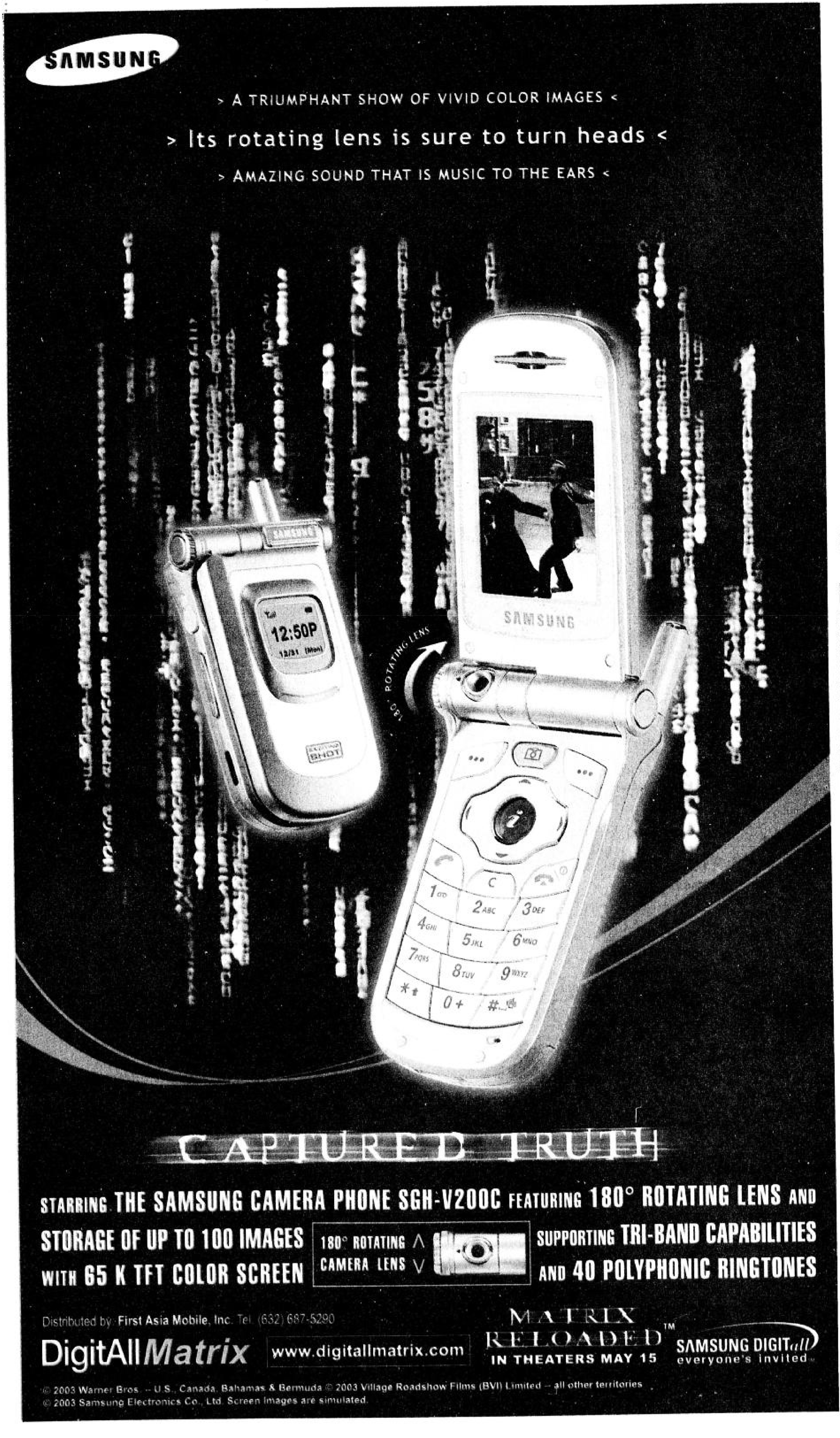

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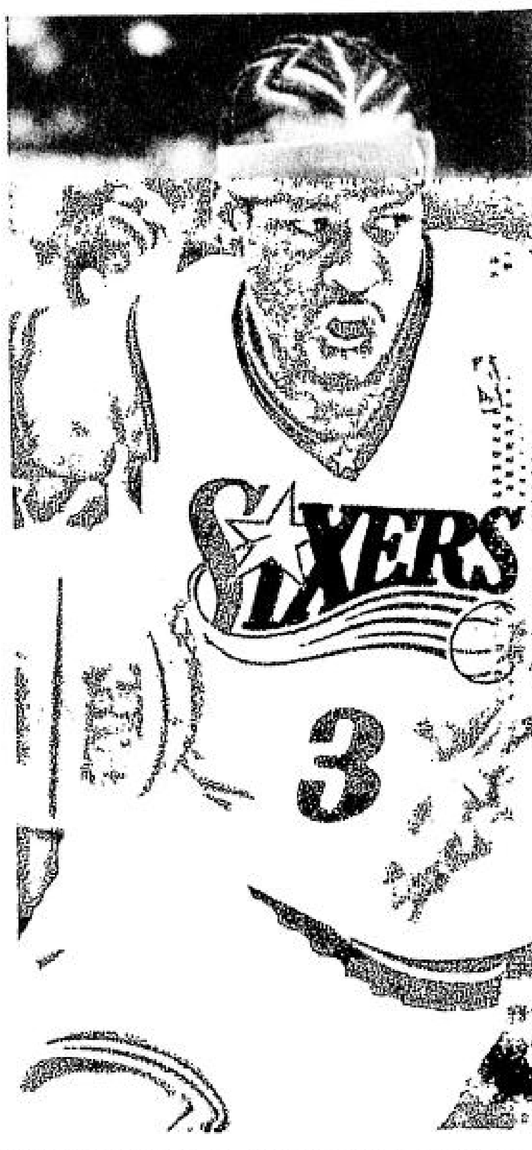

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SportsTV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

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Clemens wins No. 298

OAKLAND, California—Roger Clemens earned his 298th career victory, pitching shutout ball into the seventh inning and leading the New York Yankees over the Oakland Athletics 5-2 Saturday.

Clemens ended his two-game losing streak by giving up one run and six hits in 6 2-3 innings.

The Rocket (5-2) struck out five, leaving him 41 short of reaching 4,000. He walked one.

Clemens, a six-time AL Cy Young winner, won his rematch with Barry Zito, who got the award last year. Zito threw eight sharp innings at Yankee Stadium last Sunday in a 2-0 win.

The victory kept Clemens on pace to possibly win No. 300 at his old home, Fenway Park. Clemens is scheduled to pitch again next weekend against Texas, then make his following start at Boston.

Mariano Rivera pitched the ninth for his third save.

Zito (5-3) gave up four runs on five hits over six innings. He walked four and struck out seven.

Jorge Posada hit a three-run homer and Bernie Williams had a solo shot for the Yankees. Red Sox 6, Twins 5

In Minneapolis, Manny Ramirez had three hits and scored the go-ahead run in the eighth inning with smart baserunning as Boston ended Minnesota's five-game winning streak.

Matthew LeCroy homered twice for the Twins.

With the score tied at 4, Boston loaded the bases off Juan Rincon (1-1) with one out in the eighth. Jeremy Giambi hit a short fly ball to center fielder Torii Hunter, who made a strong throw home to keep Ramirez on third.

But when the ball short-hopped catcher A.J. Pierzynski and rolled toward the mound, Ramirez raced home to put Boston ahead. Hunter was charged with an error on the play.

AP

Sore toe sidelines Sosa

CHICAGO—Chicago Cubs slugger Sammy Sosa was placed on the 15-day disabled list Saturday with an infected toe that may need surgery.

Sosa did not play in Saturday's game with the St. Louis Cardinals, replaced in the lineup by Troy O'Leary. The sore toenail has prevented Sosa from rotating well on his swing.

Sosa is hitting .303 with six home runs and 23 RBI for the Cubs, who lead the National League Central in their first season under manager Dusty Baker.

AFP

Hernandez on injured list

MONTREAL—Montreal Expos righthander Orlando Hernandez, who has not pitched this major league baseball season, will undergo arthroscopic surgery Monday on his pitching shoulder and could be out for the season.

Hernandez was acquired Jan. 15 from the New York Yankees in a three-team trade, but was placed on the 15-day disabled list March 15. He made three rehabilitation starts and was examined in Florida on Thursday after his most recent outing in Florida.

The examination revealed a small tear in his right rotator cuff and he is scheduled to undergo surgery Monday in Miami.

"He threw well, but after the game the next day we wanted to make sure he was checked," said Expos general manager Omar Minaya said. "He got a second opinion from a doctor (John) Uribe.

AFP

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3RD PRIZES 64 FALCON MOTORCYCLE 150 cc
64 ₱10,000 each for Store/Outlet winners

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1. You must be 18 years old and above and a Philippine resident to join
2. Write your Name, Address, Age, Signature, Name and Address of Store/Outlet at the back of empty packs of the following participating brands: HOPE 100's, HOPE Kings, More International Kings, More Menthol 100's, Fortune International, Fortune International Menthol Kings, Fortune Extra Menthol 100's, Fortune Extra Menthol Kings, Fortune Extra Filter Kings, Champion International, Champion Kings, Champion Lights, Champion 100's, Mark 100's, Mark Kings, Winston, Winston Lights, and Camel Filter Kings.
3. All entries must have a portion of the pack's seal.
4. Only Genuine and Original packs of participating brands made by Fortune Tobacco Corporation will be honored.
5. Drop your entries in Drop Boxes at designated drop centers.
6. You can only win 1 prize per Grand Draw. If your name is drawn more than once in a given draw, you win the bigger prize and forfeit the prize with a lesser price value.
7. The Stores/Outlets have a chance to win Cash Prizes in the Major Prize Category (1st to 3rd prizes only). In the event that a Store/Outlet owner wins a Major Prize during the draw, he or she will also win the corresponding cash prize for the Store/Outlet.
8. If a winning entry does not bear the Name and Address of the Store/Outlet, the entry will still be valid but no Store/Outlet Winner will be declared for the corresponding cash prize.
9. The following are the four (4) Grand Draw dates:
1st Draw: June 28, 2003
2nd Draw: October 4, 2003
3rd Draw: January 17, 2004
4th Draw: April 24, 2004
(NOTE: Subject to change and will be announced in advance.)
10. Deadline for submission of entries per Grand Draw:
a. Provincial Entries - ten (10) days before the Grand Draw
b. Metro Manila Entries - 1 week before the Grand Draw
11. Only official representatives from Fortune Tobacco Corporation and DOH-BFAD will validate all winning raffle entries during the Pre-Draw and Grand Draw.
12. Major Prize Winners (for the 1st to the 3rd Prizes) will be drawn during a LIVE TELECAST of the Grand Draw in NBN Channel 4. Minor Prize winners (for the 4th to the 10th Prizes) will be pre-drawn prior to each Grand Draw Show.
13. The Raffle Prize and Store/Outlet winners of the 1st to the 9th Prizes will be published in the Philippine Daily Inquirer nine (9) days after the Grand Draw Show. As for the 10th Prizes Winners, a separate list of their names will be posted in the district/branch offices of Fortune Tobacco Corp. nationwide.
14. All prizes are TAX PAID. No fees are required to claim prizes.
15. Winners of the 1st to the 9th Prizes will be notified by telegram as to when and where they may claim their prizes. It must be personally claimed. The prizes of the 10th Prize Winners will be delivered at their respective home addresses.
16. When claiming the prizes, the winner must present the telegram and two (2) ID's bearing their photos and signatures. In case the claimant is unable to comply with these requirements, he or she must execute an affidavit to verify and establish his or her identity.
17. As for the Store/Outlet Winners, they must also present the telegram, two (2) ID's bearing their photos and signatures, and a copy of their business permit.
18. Prizes not claimed after sixty (60) days from the publication of the Winners Ad will be forfeited.
19. Non-winning entries per Grand Draw will not qualify for the next Grand Draw.
20. Employees of Fortune Tobacco Corporation, its Advertising Agencies and DOH-BFAD as well as their relatives up to the 2nd degree of consanguinity are not qualified to join this promotion.

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Clogged artery sends Lakers coach to hospital

LOS ANGELES—Los Angeles Lakers coach Phil Jackson underwent angioplasty to clear a blocked coronary artery Saturday, but could be on hand to coach his team Sunday when they host San Antonio in the National Basketball Association playoffs.

"If the other tests look fine, he'll be released," said Lakers spokesman John Black, who said the coach would undergo further tests Sunday morning. "Optimistically, what we're all hoping for is obviously that he'll be at the game. He'll be on medication for several months, but if all goes well, he'll be able to coach the game."

Jackson had experienced chest pain recently and was told it could be stress related. However, tests showed a 90 percent blocked artery and Jackson went ahead with the procedure in which a balloon was inserted to open the artery and a stent placed in the vessel to help keep it open.

AFP

Celtic forward in hot water

BOSTON—The National Basketball Association is investigating an incident in which Boston Celtics forward Antoine Walker pushed a fan.

NBA spokesman Tim Frank said Saturday that the league's security department is looking into the incident, which took place during the final minutes of Boston's home playoff loss to the New Jersey Nets on Friday night.

Walker was taken out of the game with 4:42 remaining and the Celtics trailing by 24 points in an eventual 94-76 loss. Responding to a fan heckling him from the row of seats directly behind the team's bench, Walker put his left hand on the right side of the fan's face and pushed him.

AFP

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Fishing for the thrill

COMMENTARY

By Vic Vic Villavicencio

THE SIGN at the fishing camp of the Philippine Game Fishing Foundation in San Vicente, Sta. Ana, Cagayan says it all for conservationist sport fishing: "Catch a sail for the thrill, not for the kill!"

And that is the message that will guide competitors in the four-day Triple-V 46th National Fishing Championships May 12 to 15, which is also the fifth leg of the 2003 tournament series.

In the "billfish capital of the Philippines," tournament statistics indicate that conservation measures are showing results. Last year, the same tournament recorded one of the most productive ever in terms of number of billfish, mostly sailfish, caught by anglers. Before long we foresee more foreign anglers coming to sample our kind of big-game sport fishing.

Sailfish below 20 kg landed during tournaments is disqualified with full points deduction penalty. In non-PGFF tournaments, a maximum of two sailfish per angler is allowed for the entire trip; any excess must be released live or the angler is fined P1,000 per illegal sailfish or is disqualified for two years. Fines collected go to the Bantay Dagat Fund.

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Fishing for the thrill

COMMENTARY

By Vic Vic Villavicencio

THE SIGN at the fishing camp of the Philippine Game Fishing Foundation in San Vicente, Sta. Ana, Cagayan says it all for conservationist sport fishing: "Catch a sail for the thrill, not for the kill!"

And that is the message that will guide competitors in the four-day Triple-V 46th National Fishing Championships May 12 to 15, which is also the fifth leg of the 2003 tournament series.

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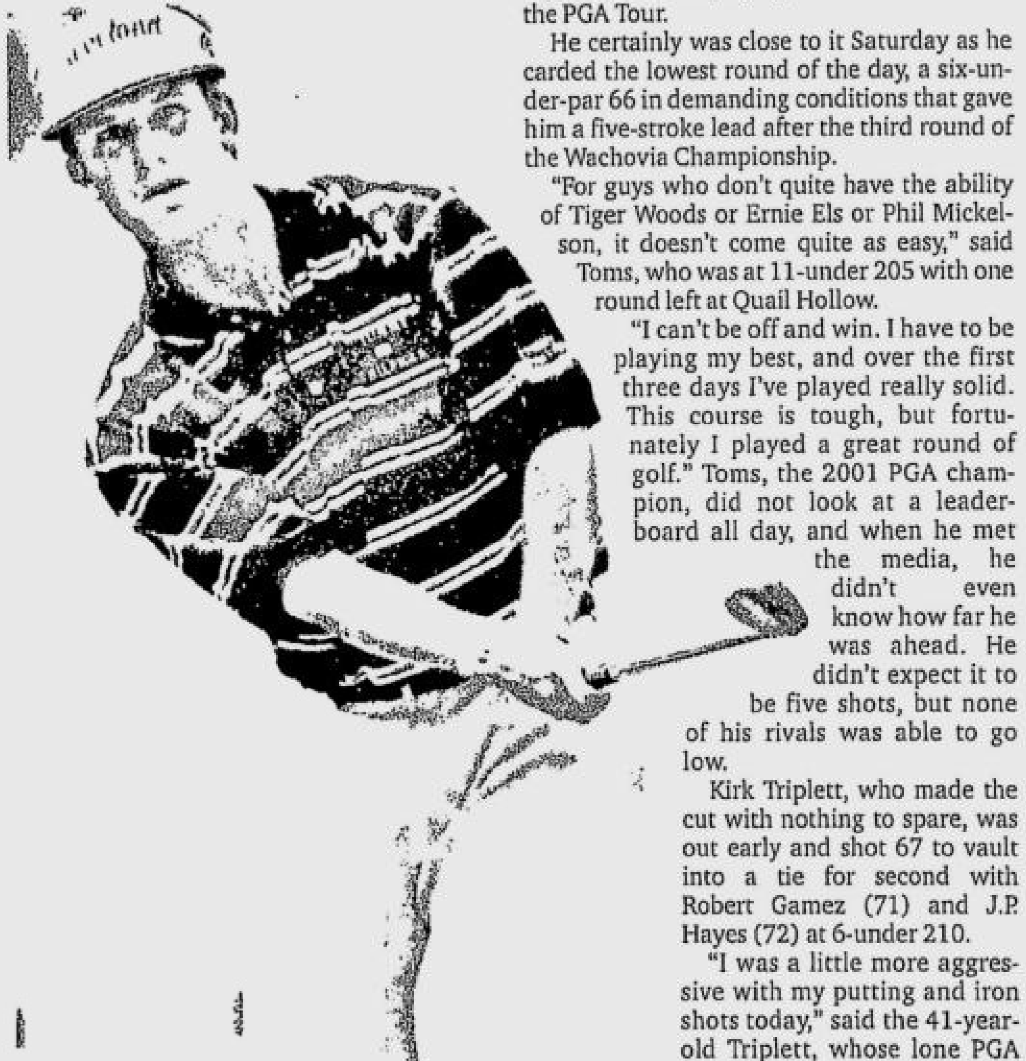

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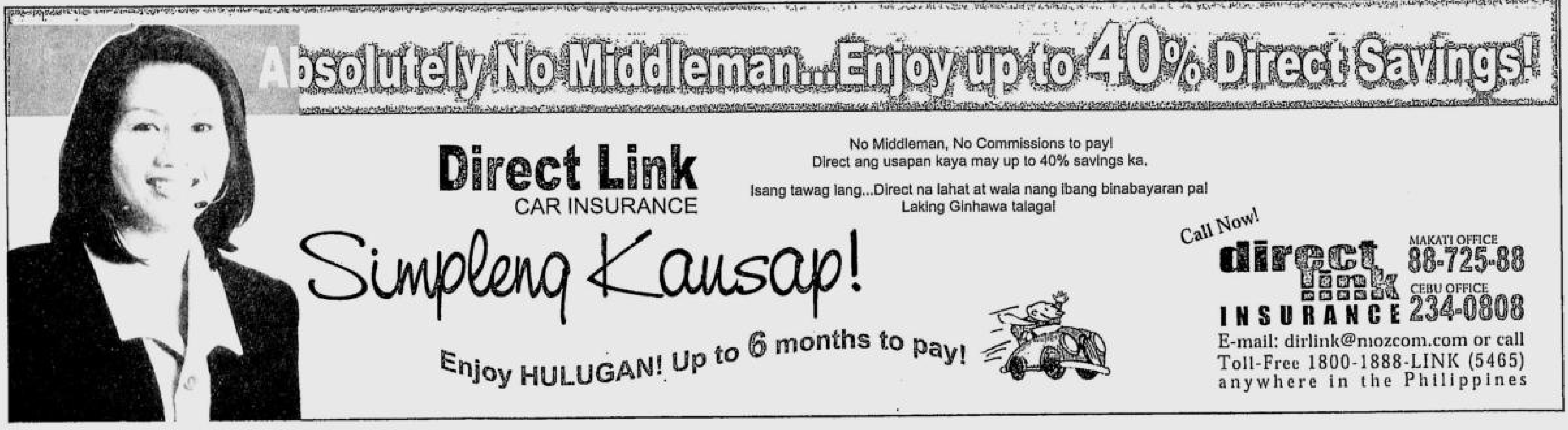

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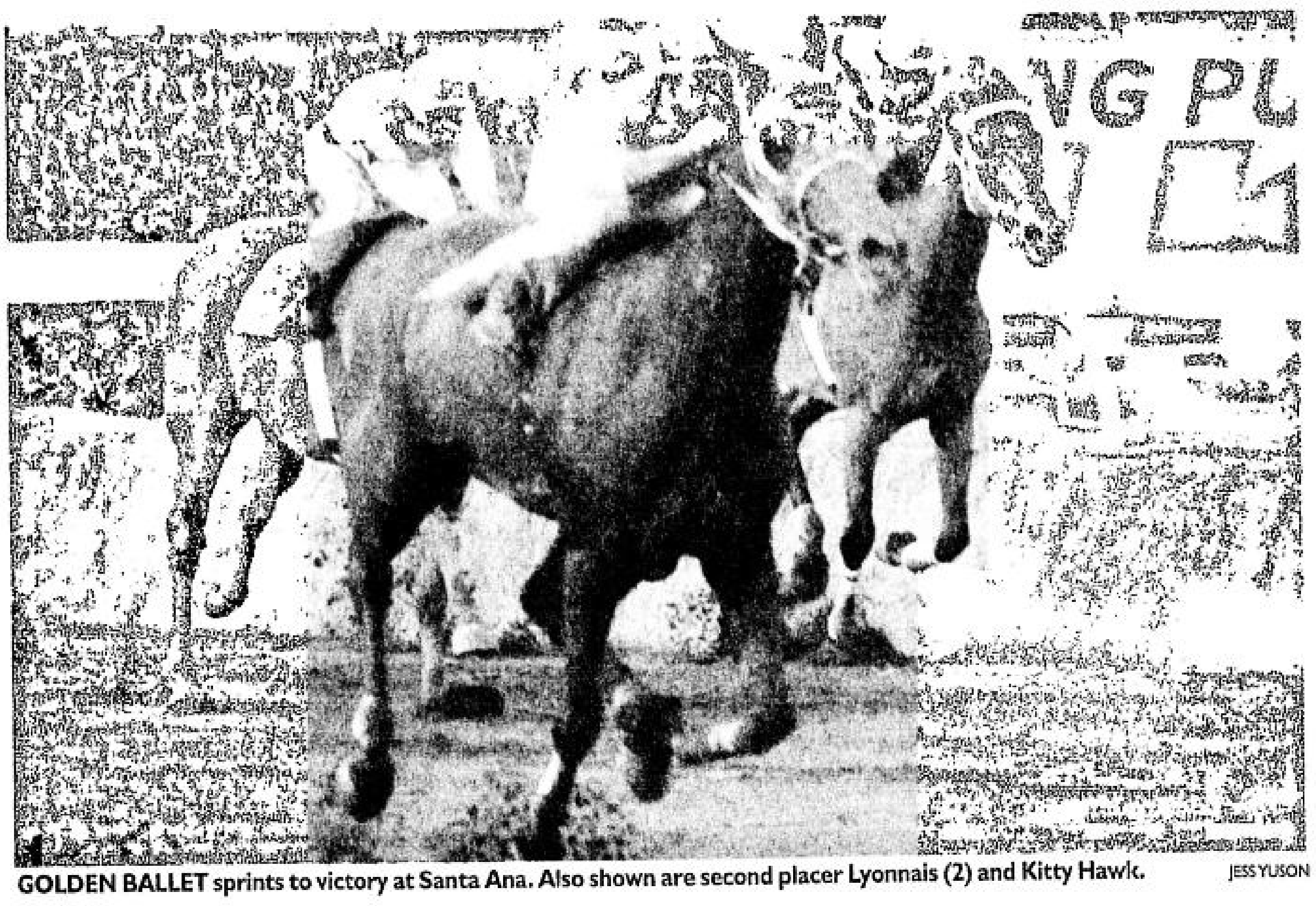
FIRST GENT'S CUP

Wind Blown blown away by Golden Ballet

By Edwin Villanueva



GOLDEN BALLET sprints to victory at Santa Ana. Also shown are second placer Lyonnais (2) and Kitty Hawk. JESS YUSON

THE WIND blew the other way for champion galloper Wind Blown yesterday.

Hobbled by a heavy load and lack of tuneup, the two-time Horse of the Year failed to accomplish a "threepeat" in the First Gentleman Silver Cup race, finishing a beaten fourth yesterday at the jampacked Santa Ana Park.

At the end of the punishing, seldom-run 2,050-meter route, far third choice Golden Ballet sashayed her way first to the wire to score the big upset in front of a thrilled crowd which included President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

"This victory is for Kuya Del," said Jun Almeda, dedicating Golden Ballet's win to his brother Delfin, himself a horseowner who passed away recently.

"We we're just hoping for a second or third-best finish because Wind Blown is in the field so I was really surprised when I saw Golden Ballet coming in strongly at the stretch and eventually making it," added Almeda, who was rewarded with the P1.1 winner's prize.

Lyonnais, the second pick in the betting, came home second, three lengths off Golden Ballet, while Kitty Hawk faded to third after setting the pace that experts said did Wind Blown in.

Wind Blown, hoping to score a historic third straight triumph in the event, shot out of the outermost seventh box sluggishly and struggled to range within Kitty Hawk under the top weight of 62 kilos. Kitty Hawk, like Golden Ballet, carried only 54 kilos.

Fernando Raquel Jr. muscled Wind Blown to within a length of Kitty Hawk nearing the far turn but Hermie Esguerra's galloper didn't respond.

"Maybe the top weight bothered him (Wind Blown)," said Esguerra. "He'll be rested first then we'll plan what's next for him."

Golden Ballet, who ran second to last in the early going, charged like a house on fire at the top of the stretch, passing Lyonnais and then the tiring Kitty Hawk to snatch the victory on Mother's Day. Winning time was 2:11.

"*Akala ko titimbang lang kami* (I thought we'll just finish in the money)," said victorious rider Jonathan B. Hernandez.

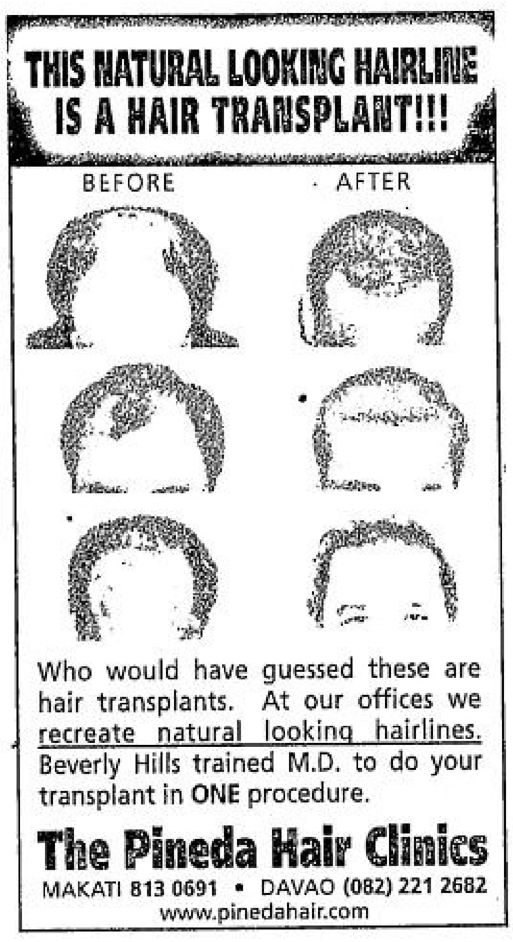
Hyperbid wound up fifth followed by Perfect Storm and Sparkling Sky, who collapsed and died after the race.

Lyonnais got P350,000, while Kitty Hawk bagged P175,000.

Wind Blown, who was assigned the same weight when he lost and finished only fifth in the Presidential Gold Cup last year, settled for P85,000.

President Macapagal-Arroyo accompanied First Gentleman and honoree Mike and cheered for the entries just like the huge crowd which jammed the Makati race venue.

Meanwhile, Klub Don Juan de Manila, chaired by Pampanga Vice Go. Mikey Arroyo, will celebrate its first anniversary today by holding an awards night at the Bahay Pangarap in Malacañang.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Asian sports still reeling from SARS

THE SARS scourge continues to wreak havoc on Asian sports, this time affecting the World junior basketball championships for men set July 10-20 in Malaysia.

The Commission for International Competition, after meeting at the Fiba (International Basketball Federation) headquarters on Saturday, recommended the relocation of the tournament because of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome scare gripping the region.

Greece was quick to react, offering to host the event as scheduled, according to a press release by Fiba. The final decision, however, rests on the Fiba Central Board which will meet May 24-25 in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

If the Greece offer is accepted, the spots for China and Malaysia will be kept open.

The same ruling will be applied to the World junior basketball championships for women in Croatia, where a slot for China has been reserved.

The Commission for International Competition likewise suggested that the World junior championships for men and women (Under 19) be held biennially and the Young Men and Young Women (Under 21) be held quadrennially.

Roy Luarca

De Ocampo paces MVP derby in PBL

By Dennis U. Eroa

DETERMINED to get out of the imposing shadow cast by older brother and now FedEx slotman Yancy, John O stalwart Ranidel de Ocampo is moving closer to a lifelong dream.

Known for his power plays, the 6-foot-5 Ranidel has taken the lead in the race for MVP honors after the Sunkist PBL Unity Cup eliminations.

De Ocampo amassed a total of 332 statistical points, 105 of them as bonus points for John O's league-leading 7-3 win-loss record.

"It's my dream to win the MVP, but anything can still happen. My priority right now is to keep the team winning," said De Ocampo, who ranked sixth in scoring (13 ppg), seventh in rebounds (7.3 rpg) and 11th in assists (2.8 apg).

The 6-7 Yancy won MVP honors before turning pro last year. He was the top PBA draft pick and is now making a name as one of the PBA's leading centers.

"I'm happy for my brother. I wish him all the success in the world and hopefully we'll play together in the pros in the near future," Yancy told the INQUIRER.

Ranidel's explosive show came a year after he was sidelined due to a career-threatening heart trouble. De Ocampo, also the MVP in the National Intercollegiate while playing for St. Francis of Assisi College, got a clean bill of health late last year and resumed his winning ways in the PBL.

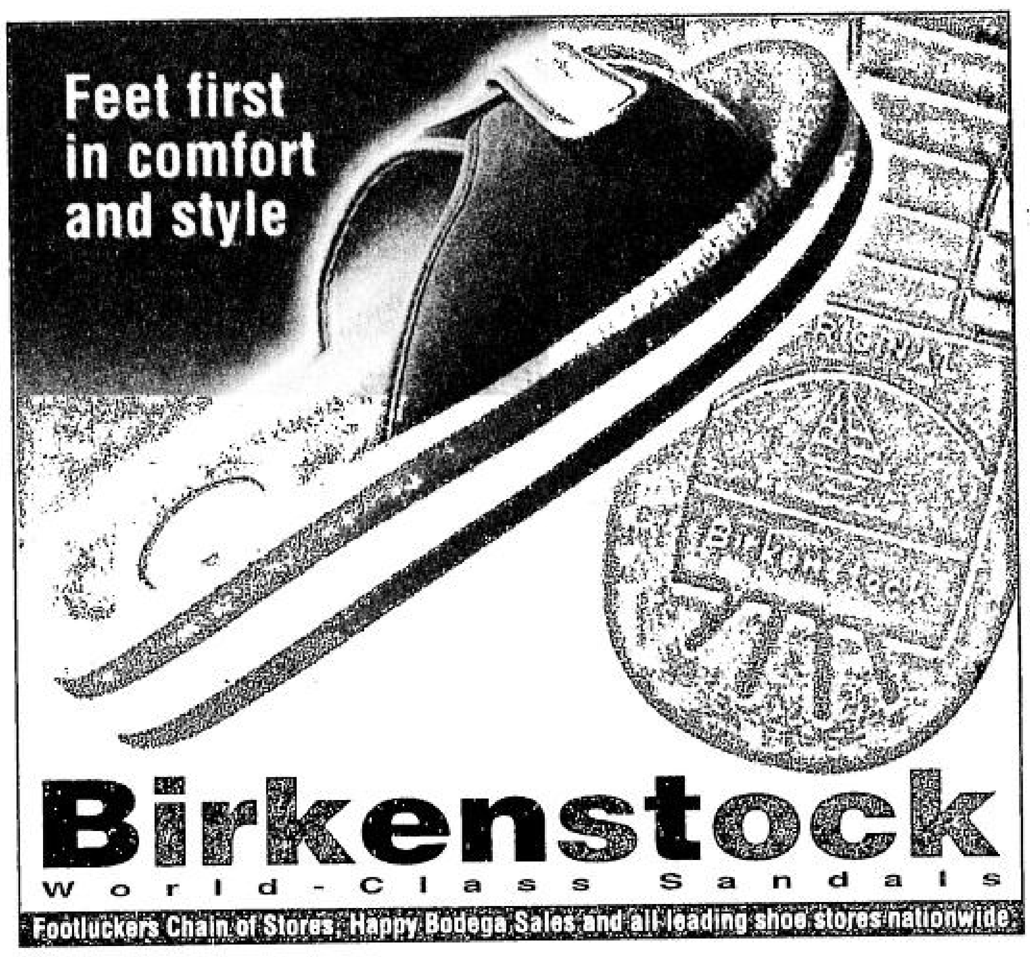
De Ocampo's main rivals for the MVP title are Nelbert Omolon (320 points) and Ervin Sotto (314) both of newcomer Nutri-licious. Omolon and Sotto, however, are being pulled down by the Juicers' scrambling campaign which could rob them of precious statistical points.

The other MVP hopefuls are Gary "King" David of Montaña (299), Jean Marc Pingris (292), Ricky Calimag (289), Peter Simon (280) and Rich Alvarez (262).

The 6-foot-3 David, a native of Dinalupihan, Bataan, emerged first in scoring (19.3 ppg) and fourth in rebounds (4.8 rpg).

Montaña, Hapee and John O are already in the semifinals.

Alvarez, a rebound and defensive specialist, missed one of Hapee's nine outings but is expected to improve his statistics since the Sparklers are favored to make the finals.



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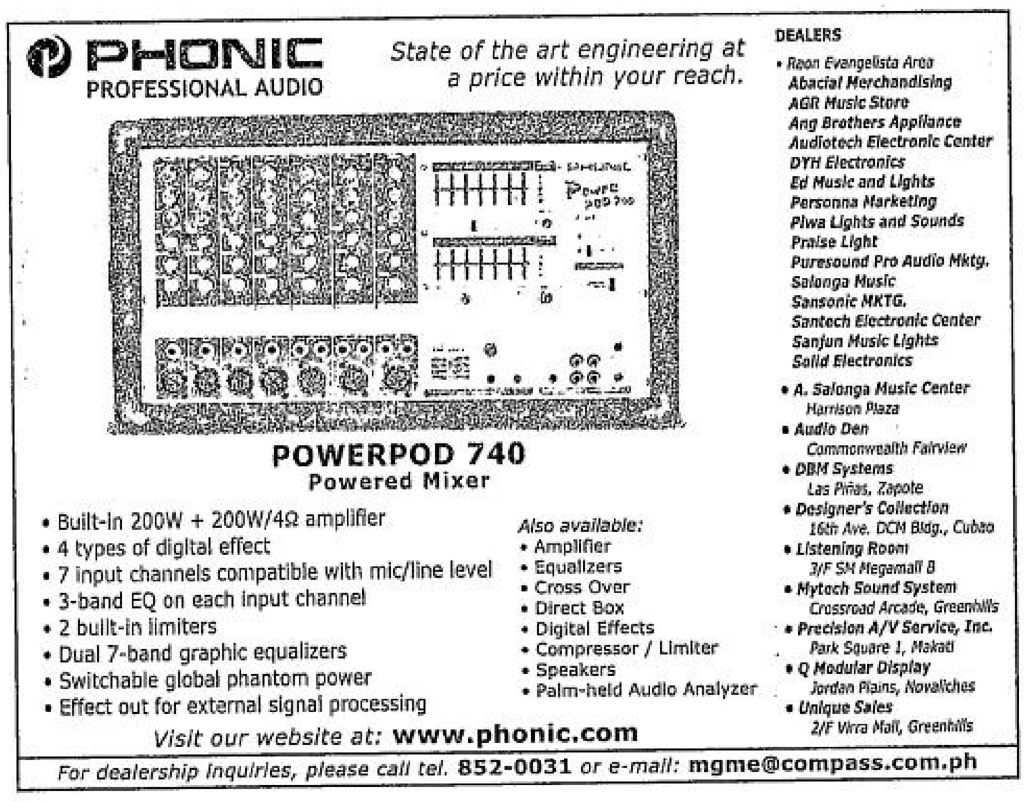
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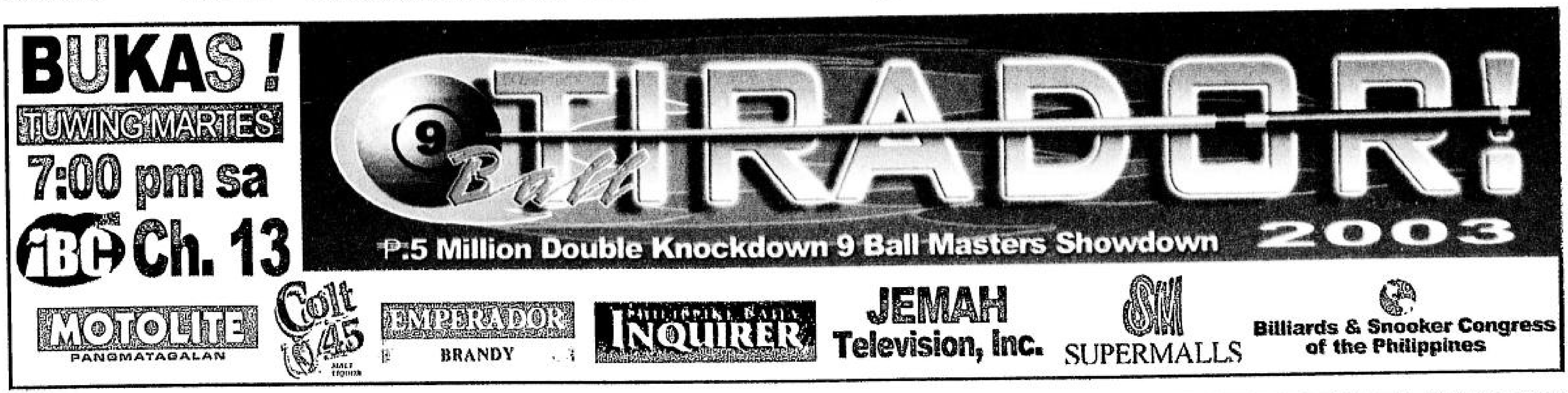
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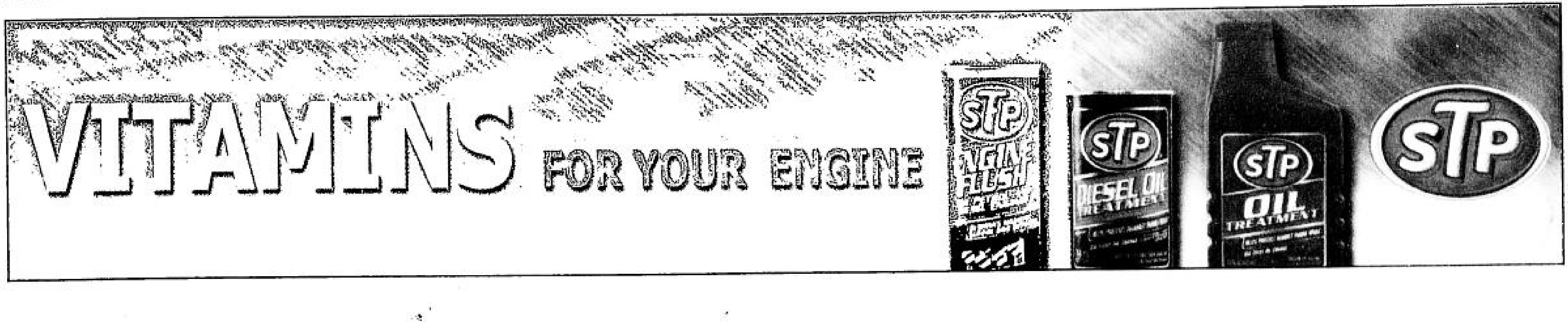

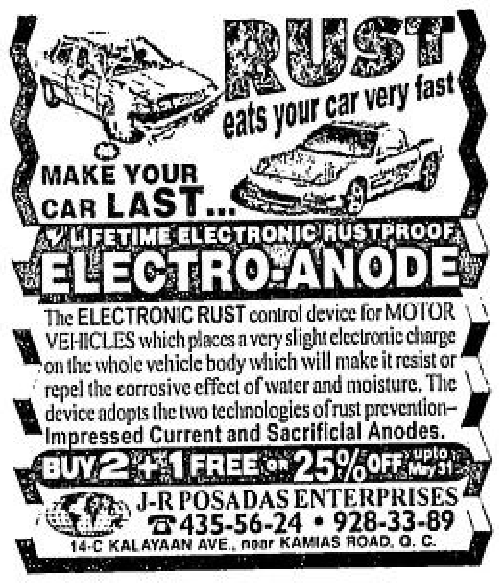
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Janiola seeks OPBF title today

WENDEL "Braveheart" Janiola promised not to blow his chance at a second international title when he challenges reigning Oriental and Pacific Boxing Federation (OPBF) junior flyweight champion Shingo Yamaguchi of Japan today at the Korakuen Hall in Tokyo.

"I will try to knock him out to take away from the judges the chance to decide the outcome of the fight," said Janiola in Tagalog during a telephone interview before he left for Japan last week.

The 22-year-old Janiola lost by unanimous decision to South African Mhikiza Myekeni in their International Boxing Organization (IBO) title fight in South Africa on Feb. 15.

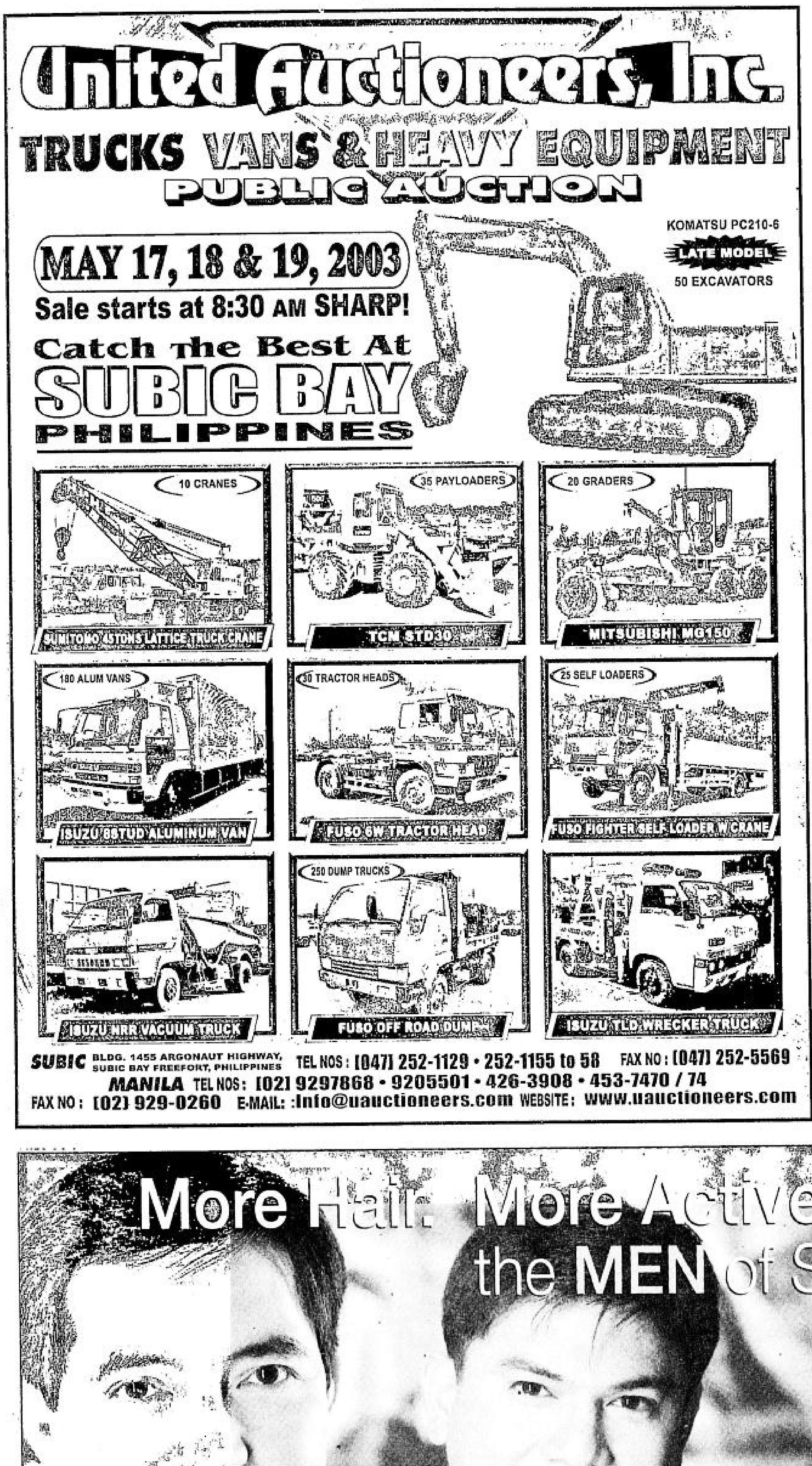
The Nasipit, Agusan-born Janiola, the former RP champion ,in the 108-lb division,

has a 13-1 win-loss record with five knockouts. Yamaguchi boasts of a 13-3-1 win-loss-draw mark with seven KOs.

Janiola, now based in Lilo-an, Cebu, is ranked No. 7 by the International Boxing Federation and No. 11 by the World Boxing Association.

Yamaguchi, who is making a first title defense, is rated No. 14 by the WBA.

Rey Danseco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Old epidemic grips Pangasinan

BARE EYE

Recab Trinidad

HE could not even predict rain, but he did not hesitate and promptly named the sure winner.

Jesus Garcia Jr. picked Arnel Quirimit to win it two weeks before the 2003 Tour Pilipinas could blast off.

Asked to name his second choice, Garcia, two-time Tour champion and one of the great cycling sons of Pangasinan, declined.

Why? Because Pangasinan, he said, could not have waited any longer for another son of the province to assume the cycling kingship.

***

The last Pangasinense to win the Tour was Bernardo Llentada. He did it a dozen years ago, in 1991.

Oh, you should hear Jess Garcia groan in narrating the frustration that would envelop the whole province each year a Pangasinense fails to bring home the Tour crown.

They were long, empty, very lonely years.

Not the least puzzling because Pangasinenses, noted for their industry and hardiness, have been nobly characterized, for the the country and the world to admire, not by their rich cagers, shallow preachers and lardy politicians but by their hungry, hardy cycling champions

***

Of course, the rise of at least three big Pangasinense basketball superstars, Danny Ildefonso, Rommel Adducul and Marlou Aquino, restored a measure of pride among sports fans in the province.

These three cagers are, hands-down, certified millionaires.

However, Pangasinenses fully know that, unlike the PBA, the lung-busting summer bikathon is no hero factory.

Superstars, at the rate they are paraded in the PBA, are a dime a dozen.

But not in the Tour where only one worthy son is chosen each summer.

The punishing, multi-stage bikathon is, indeed, an ultimate test of a people's character and breeding.

***

For the record, no native son had dominated the Tour as mightily as the Pangasinense.

Jess Garcia has lent the INQUIRER his mental list of Pangasinense Tour champions:

Rufino Gabot (Manaoag) 1957, Mamerto Eden Sr. (Mapandan) 1958, Edmundo de Guzman (Lingayen) 1962, Gonzalo Recodos 1963, Jesus Garcia Jr. (Mangaldan) 1973, Teodorico Rimarim (Basista) 1974, Samson Etrata (Binalonan) 1975, Modesto Bonzo 1976, Jesus Garcia Jr. (Mangaldan) 1977, Jacinto Sicam, 1981-82, Romeo Bonzo 1983, Ruben Carino 1984, Pepito Calip 1985.

***

When the Tour was last run in 1998, a Bulakeno, Warren Davadilla, brought home the crown.

Now that Quirimit from Pozzurobio has regained Pangasinan's greatest sports treasure, a cycling fever, not unlike an epidemic, has promptly gripped the province.

They are overjoyed, Jess Garcia swore as he announced a cycling renaissance.

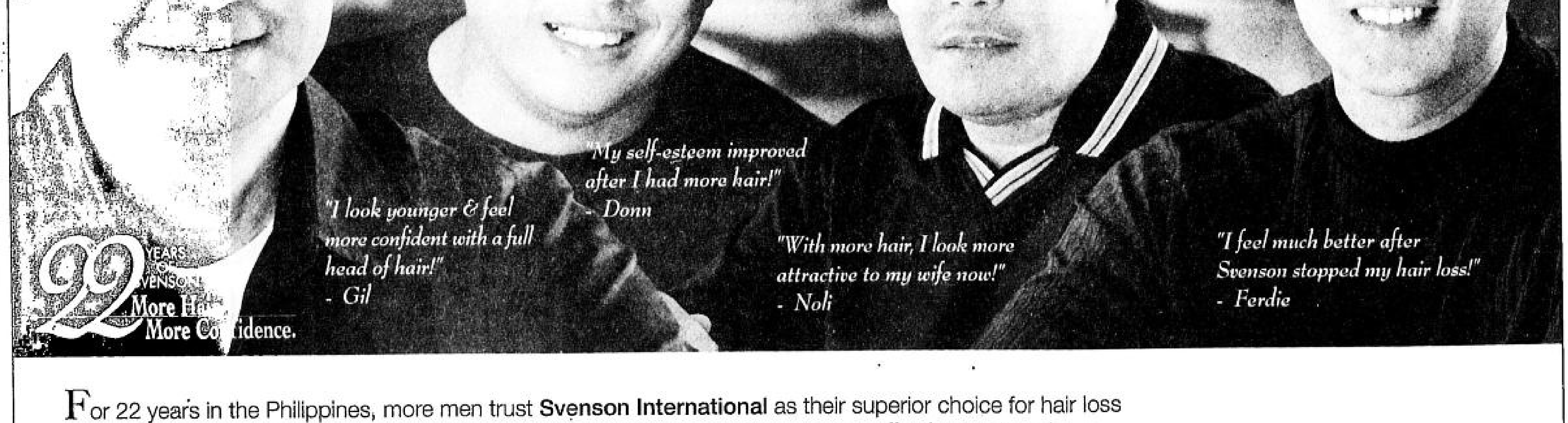
The day Quirimit grabbed the yellow jersey, Garcia said, old, rusty bikes, mothballed during the lonely, winless years, were instantly seen again out in the roads all over Pangasinan.

Anyway, some people are not aware of it, Garcia continued, but Pangasinenses excel in multi-stage cycling because they are not afraid to work hard.

Garcia, 57, said he was a messenger who had to push hard and ride the bike everyday, rain or shine. Other Pangasinense riders who carved out legendary names either delivered newspapers or sold pan de sal on their bikes.

Now, it's easier to believe that many Pangasinense males would ride their bikes all the way up, up to Baguio just to buy cabbage for the Sunday puchero.

Even Joe de Venecia could be very proud of that.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RP gaining from China's SARS crisis

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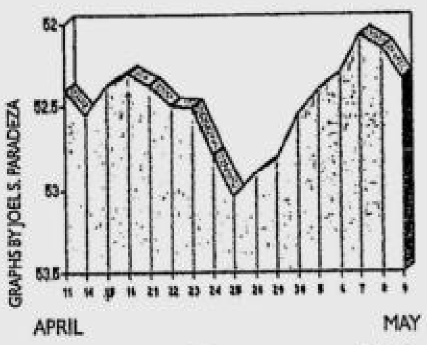

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STOCK MARKET

Mixed trading seen

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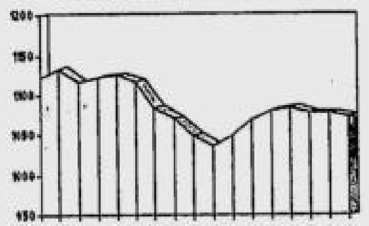


(See stock market report on Page B6)

LOCAL stocks are seen to consolidate this week as initial reports of first-quarter corporate performance were not enough to inspire aggressive bargain-hunting.

Analysts said the market was having difficulty breaking out of the 1,080 resistance level. On Friday, the main-share Philippine Stock Exchange composite index closed at 1,073.26, only 0.47 percent higher than the previous week's close.

Banco de Oro Universal Bank chief strategist Jonathan Ravelas said Friday's closing level still indicated a test of the 1,080 level.

"Should prices fail to clear the 1,080 level, a resumption of the test toward the 1,000-1,020 levels has begun," Ravelas said. "Only a break above the 1,100 level would negate the near-term bearish bias."

A&A Securities head of research Astro del Castillo said the market would likely consolidate this week, within the 1,050-1,080 level.

"The first quarter results were not disappointing. There were some positive surprises," Del Castillo said.

He said the market would likely firm up within the 1,060 level before testing the next resistance at 1,100.

"I think we'll test 1,100 later in the week barring any negative surprises," he said. "The economic fundamentals are improving and investors are taking position toward the second quarter."

BPI Securities said the weak close on Friday was "worrisome," hinting at the strength of the resistance range of 1,080-1,100.

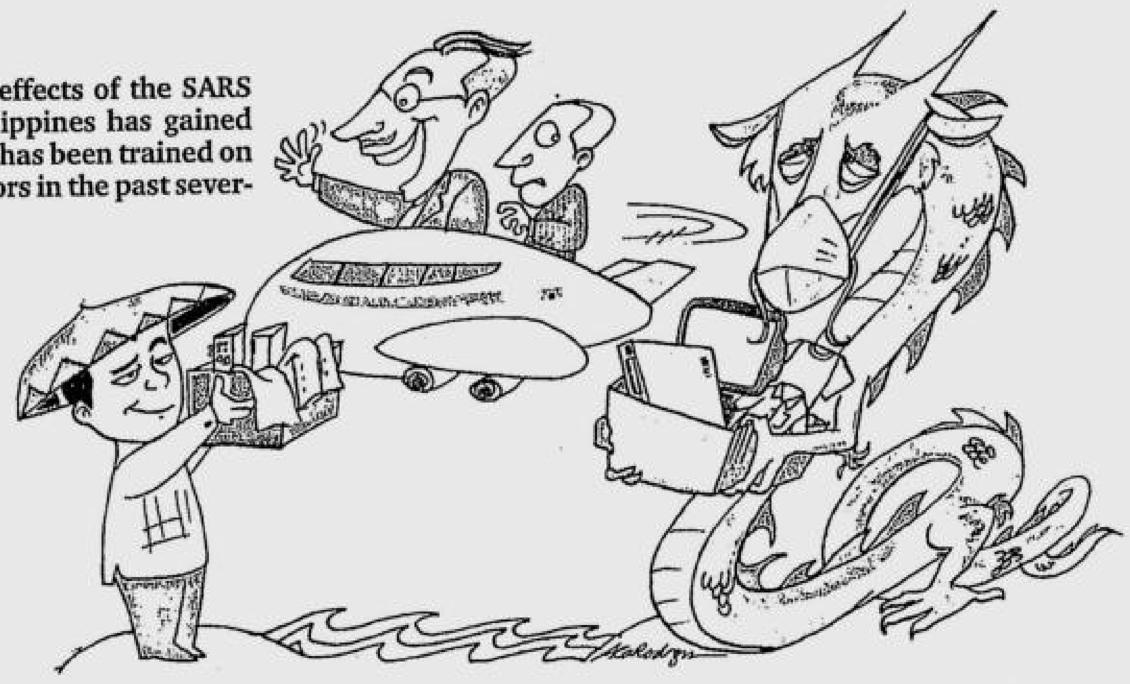
"Apparently, the generally favorable first-quarter results were not impressive enough for jaded investors," it said.

BPI Securities said other issues which surfaced last week which might have tempered investor enthusiasm were the adverse court rulings on Meralco, PEA-Amari and Platco.

MIXED/ B2

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

WITH China reeling from the effects of the SARS virus on its economy, the Philippines has gained back some of the spotlight that has been trained on the Mainland by foreign investors in the past several years.



Francis Chua, executive vice president of the Federation of Filipino Chinese Chamber of Commerce Inc., said the SARS virus has effectively "neutralized the China factor" that had obscured the investments prospects in the Philippines and other Asean countries.

Chua said that the SARS epidemic has crippled China's mighty economic engine that it would take at least a year before it could fully get back on its feet and regain investor confidence. "We should take advantage of this golden chance to gain some ground while China recovers," Chua said.

Consumer spending in China has been heading south as stores and restaurants are empty while investor confidence has been badly shaken by a forced shutdown of multinational corporation factories, which had some of their staff infected by the killer pneumonia.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II said that the garments and electronics industries have so far been the immediate beneficiaries of foreign investors looking out of China for alternative production bases.

Garments and Textile Export Board executive director Serafin Juliano attributed the 20-percent spurt in garments and textile ex-

RP GAINING/ B4

Treasury cuting size of bond auction to P3B

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BUREAU of Treasury has reduced by P500 million the volume of the weekly bond auctions to P3 billion in the third quarter in anticipation of strong proceeds from other forms of local borrowing.

The size of the treasury bills sold in the twice-a-month auctions from July to August was kept at P9.5 billion, divided into P4 billion for the 91-day, P3 billion for the 182-day and P2.5 billion for the 364-day papers, according to a memorandum released by the Treasury late last week.

For July, the auction committee led by the Treasury would sell P15 billion worth of regular bonds.

In August and September, the four auctions each month would be for treasury bonds maturing in two, three, four and five years.

Compared to the previous quarter, the bond tenors for the third quarter are shorter. This month, the bond issues at P3.5 billion each are those maturing in three, five, seven and 10 years. In June, the tenors are three, five, seven and 20 years.

A trader said the cut in the size of regular bond auctions was likely due to anticipated proceeds from the sale of three- and five-year retail bonds next month that could hit about P60 billion.

The Treasury also said it planned to sell P4 billion worth of three-and-five year promissory notes in July.

The Treasury said that if it could sell P60 billion worth of retail bonds next month, it could afford to scrap all regular bond auctions in November and December.

Of the P198.55 billion in net borrowings this year, the government would have to raise only P95.28 billion from the foreign markets and the rest from local sources.

Originally scheduled in April, the sale of retail treasury bonds or RTBs was moved to June as the government has yet to finalize the paper work for the borrowing.

The government was looking to sell at least P10 billion worth of RTBs but it was not ruling out the big possibility that the volume would hit P60 billion as in the previous year.

The government had sold more than P100 billion worth of retail bonds since May 2001. Last year, P23.27 billion worth of 3-year and P39.66 billion worth of 5-year RTBs were sold in June.

The government floated P15.6 billion worth of 4-year RTBs in May 2001 and another P22.4-billion worth of three-and-a-half-year bonds in November.

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Air talks with China, other Asian countries shelved

By Abigail L. Ho

AIR talks scheduled with China and other Asian countries in the coming months may not push through because of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome epidemic that has left many countries apprehensive of anyone who enters their territories.

A government source revealed that talks with China slated next month might be shelved because of the SARS scare and the general downturn in the aviation and tourism industries.

He said the Philippine air panel had initially wanted to get new frequency entitlements from China as it had a very big base of potential travelers to the Philippines.

With the outbreak of SARS, however, the Chinese route might not turn out to be as viable as earlier projected.

The source also noted that air talks with China would not be the only one that might be shelved because of the SARS outbreak.

"All scheduled air talks are actually still hanging because of the SARS outbreak. None of our Asian neighbors don't seem that excited to hold any talks," he said.

Aside from China, talks with Korea for additional frequency entitlements was also rescheduled for July.

The only air rights negotiation that seemed likely to push through is the one with the United States which will be held next month, the source said.

These talks would be the second round of talks between the Philippines and the United States after talks earlier in the year ended in a stalemate.

The talks will be held in Manila, with the US air panel's request for a third-country code-sharing agreement and an all-cargo open skies policy the major points of negotiations.

While the Philippine air panel was receptive to forging an all-cargo open skies agreement with its US counterpart, the source said it was still not ready to agree to a third-party code-sharing agreement.

Under a third-country code-sharing agreement, Philippine and US carriers may place their code on the flights of third-country aviation partners to operate services between the two countries.

This means that both countries' carriers could use some of their entitlements without having to actually mount flights using their own aircraft. A third-party airline could carry a certain other airline's passengers for an agreed percentage share on ticket sales.

The source said the Philippine air panel was also still reluctant to give in to the US panel's request for the granting of the "seventh freedom."

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Why banks are against VAT

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

THE CONTINUING media war being waged by the banking industry against the imposition of the value added tax is getting a bit too irritating to ignore.

The banks were exempted from the tax when President Aquino introduced it in 1987. They were again exempted when, in 1992, President Ramos expanded the scope of the tax to include services. But time has finally run out. The exemption has been finally cut and the banks' income is now subject to VAT just like everybody else, notably the non-life insurance industry.

The banks complain to high heavens. First, they say that the tax is too complex to implement without putting up expensive office systems. If the banks are scared of the intricate procedures involved in the value added tax system, it is because they have been exempted from the tax since 1987. They worked hard to get the exemption, and now, 16 years later, they want to use their ignorance that stemmed from that exemption to justify the continuation of that exemption. They want their cake and eat it too.

When insurance came under the VAT system in 1992, the companies shifted gears from the old premium tax (similar to the banks' gross receipts tax) without too much strain. Insurance brokers like me quickly adjusted to the new tax.

Second, the banks claim that VAT will violate the sanctity of long-term contracts now in force. My son Louie has a loan with a fixed term of 10 years. But the interest rate is not fixed. It fluctuates with market conditions. VAT applies to whatever is the current interest rate on the loan. Do you see a violation of the sanctity of the contract?

Third, the banks say that VAT should not apply to them because there is no value added to their services. The interest rate, the various fees (commitment, notarial, inspection, appraisal, transfer, whatever) are the values added.

Fourth, the banks say that the VAT will hit the poorest of their borrowers since they cannot pass on the tax to anybody else. The rural banks are pushing this line. They are correct that, if the borrower is an individual, the VAT on the interest is an additional cost of his loan. And he cannot pass this cost on to anybody. But if this is a valid reason for exempting bank transactions, then the VAT should be scrapped altogether whenever an individual buys anything subject to the tax. He should not pay the tax when he buys fire insurance on his house, checks in at a hotel, eats in a restaurant, buys clothes, and sees a movie. The fact is the hapless individual payer, the low man on the totem pole, always ends up paying the tax, whatever name it may be called.

The banks—organized here into cartels—shed crocodile tears over the poor borrowers. When did the "cartelized" banks ever worry over their poor borrowers' welfare? Haven't they been soaking their poor borrowers with high interest rates all these years? I haven't forgotten that, not too long ago, interest rates were as high as 24 percent, pretty close to usurious.

The banks say nothing about the benefits they will enjoy. From their VAT collections from clients, the banks can now deduct the VAT they paid on all taxable purchases such as stationery, office machines, computers and executive lunches.

The tax does raise the cost of borrowings. As a result, there will be fewer borrowings, and more defaults. Under these conditions, the banking cartel may not survive, as there will be more competition among banks. Interest rates and fees will go down, thereby cutting the banks' huge profits. This is what really worries the banks.

Mixed trading seen

From page B1

As such, the brokerage house said it would remain cautious of the market as technical indicators indicated mixed sentiments.

"The market needs to establish a higher high and a higher low to set a bullish tone. It held at 1,040 and established a higher low but it also needs to break the recent high at 1,137 to establish a higher high," BPI Securities said.

Among the index gainers last week were ABS-CBN, PLDT, Union Cement, Ayala Corp., ICTSI, Globe Telecom, Petron, First Holdings and Digitel.

Doris C. Dumlao

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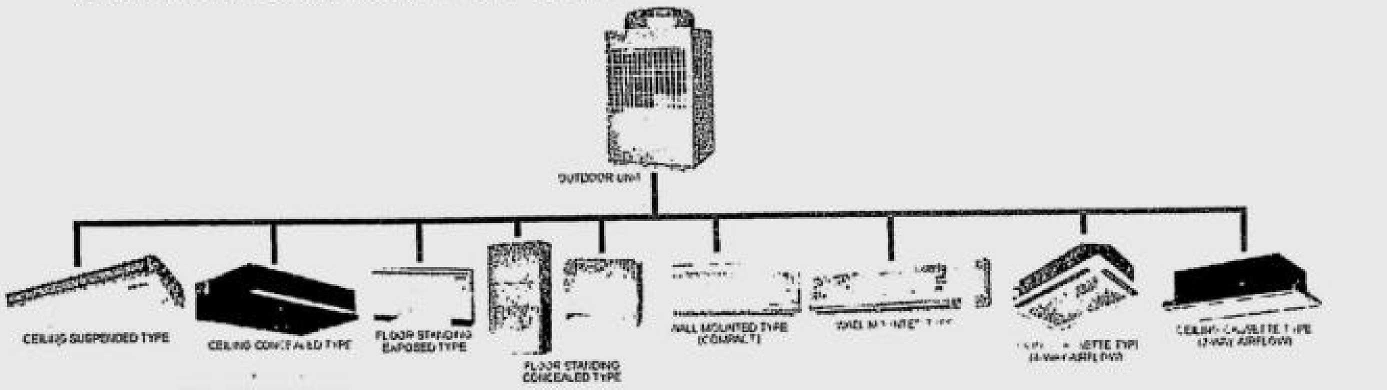

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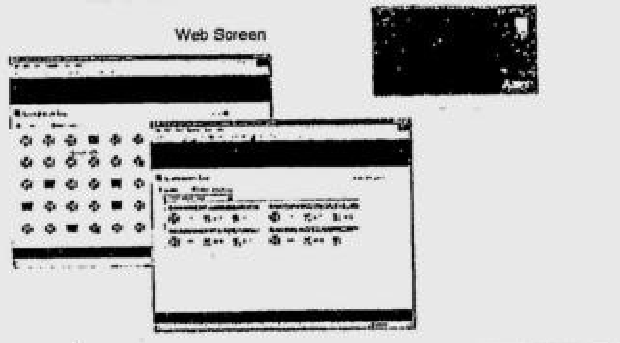

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COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

Ad-vocacies

THE "KIDNAP" TV spots of Sen. Panfilo Lacson now being aired nationwide during prime time were produced by ad exec Greg Garcia, with a little help from the creative sideliners from Hemisphere Leo Burnett, this we got from the advertising grapevine.

The Clusivol ("Mahirap Magkasakit Ngayon") campaign featuring Sen. Juan Flavier, whose TV ads have been running for sometime now, was in turn conceptualized and produced by Adformatix.

Trade and Industry Secretary Mar Roxas, who is being urged by his mom to run for senator, was coy about discussing his own TV spots, which were co-produced with San Miguel Corp.

We will get you more details about the Roxas ads, as well as on the backroom boys who produced those sports-thumping "defense" placements for Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes.

Real stirrings

IN yet another sign of the reviving real estate market, Essensa developer Joey Antonio has been quietly pre-selling a proposed mid-market residential condo along Polaris St., right beside Bel Air Village.

Called Bel-Air Soho, the 16-story condo will rise on a 1,000-square-meter property, now vacant, fronting La Tienda, the Spanish restaurant.

Units range from 30-sqm studios to one- and two-bedroom affairs. A typical studio costs P1.8 million, installment.

Antonio claims he has pre-sold about 100 of the planned 200 units, mostly to young/single Makati executives, without resorting to newspaper advertising.

COCKTALES/ B4

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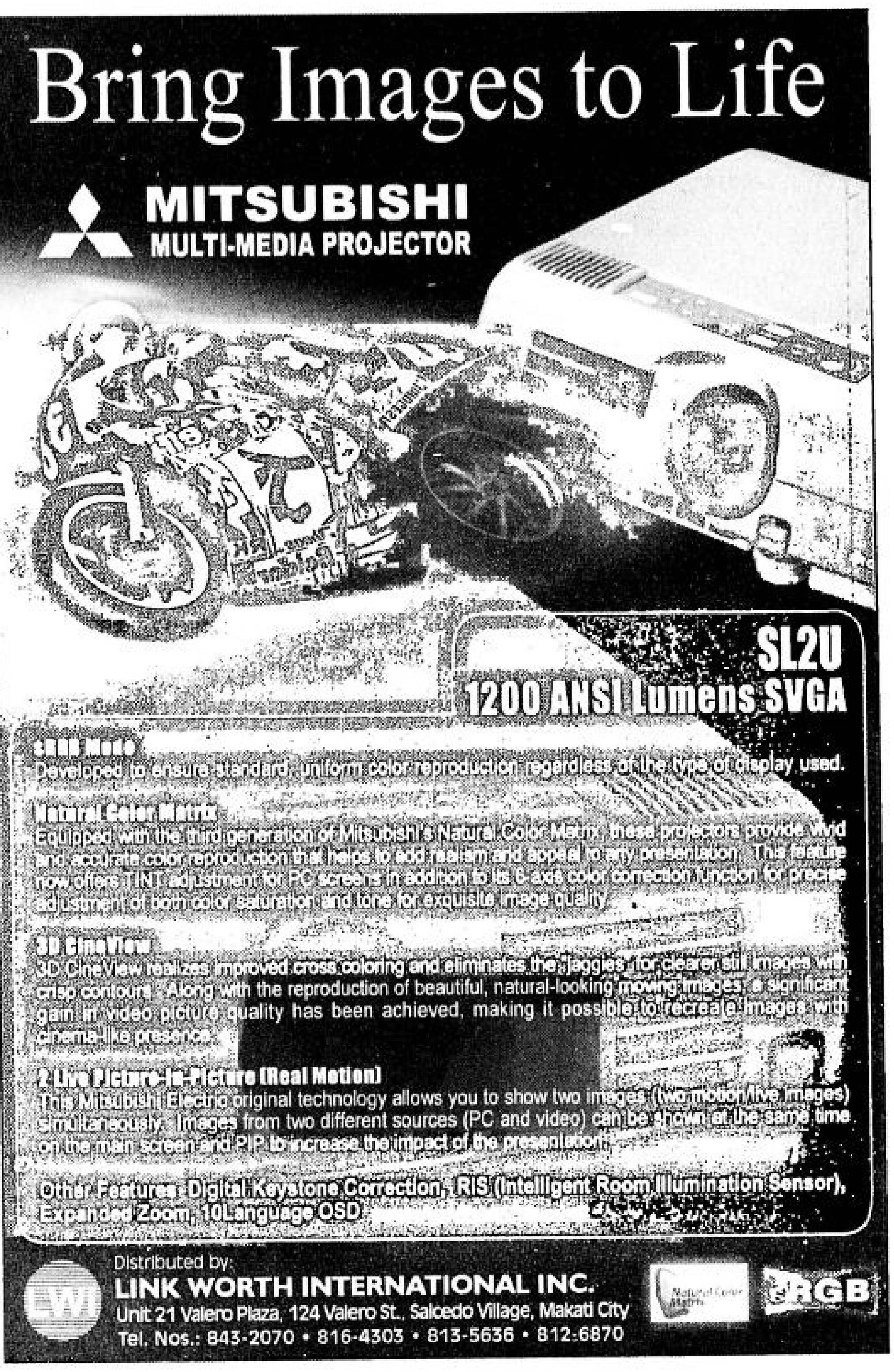
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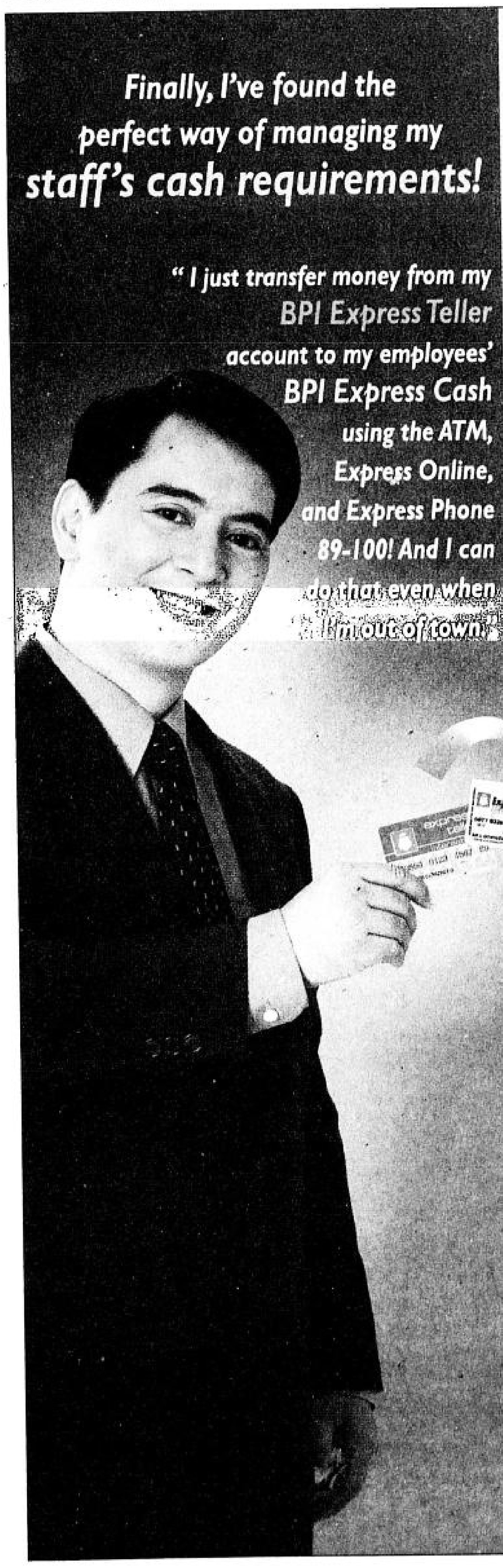
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GMA to promote backroom operations in US visit

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo will ask America's top corporations during her upcoming US state visit to put up their backroom operations in the Philippines, according to Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II.

Roxas said the government had shifted its investment promotion focus from business process outsourcing (BPO) providers to the top US corporations themselves considering that the country has already attracted almost all big-name American call centers here.

Among the top US BPO providers operating in the country are the Cincinnati-based Convergys, the world's largest provider of call center services; InfoNXX, one of the leading US provider of director inquiry services; Echostar Communications Corp.; and Teletech Holdings Inc.

Roxas said there was still a huge potential for BPO services in the country because a growing number of American corporations have been getting positive feedback on the smooth operations of the Philippine call center operations of fellow American firms Caltex, Citibank, America On-Line and the AIG group.

Aside from promoting BPO during the four-day state visit, Roxas said the President would also seek more trade access for the country's agriculture and garments exports and a resolution to the disputes on quotas and intellectual property rights violations.

Roxas said the President would seek the relaxation of the US phytosanitary standards that have hindered the exports of Philippines mangoes. He said the President would likewise discuss the Philippines' protest over the grant of $2 billion worth of garment quotas to Vietnam which has put the country's apparel industry at a disadvantage.

The President is also expected to bat for an increase in the number of Philippine products eligible for duty-free perks under the US Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) and removal of the Philippines from the US' priority watch list of intellectual priority rights violators.

Napocor sets sale of $500M in bonds

By Clarissa S. Batino

CAMACHO

NATIONAL Power Corp. has decided to prioritize the sale of $500 million worth of plain bonds this month, pushing back two borrowings worth $250 million to be guaranteed separately by the Asian Development Bank and the US-based Overseas Private Investment Corp.

The underwriter for the new bond issue will be selected this week, according to sources. The government has yet to decide on the tenor of the borrowing but the options range from five years to 20 years.

Offers came from, among others, Credit Suisse First Boston, Daiwa Securities, JP Morgan, Nomura Securities, Salomon-Smith Barney.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said the government had been pushing the Napocor to borrow while spreads on sovereign bonds were still tight. The spreads on sovereign bonds recently tightened from a high of 5.5 points over benchmark rates to 4.4 points. The spread represents the premium on interest required by investors for the perceived risks in putting their money in Philippine bonds.

He said the national government has been receiving a number of proposals from several investment banks.

"We get proposals everyday to tap different maturities with different structures. Offers come from almost anybody you could name. But we are still waiting for Napocor to complete its borrowings," said Camacho.

This month, Camacho said he might go on a no-deal roadshow to key cities in the United States to be sponsored by Salomon-Smith Barney. Camacho was invited by an investment bank affiliated with Citibank to hold a briefing for investors after joining President Macapagal-Arroyo's state visit to the US.

"Spreads on Philippine debt had gone down but we want Napocor to do it first so we could proceed later," said the finance chief.

A source said other Napocor borrowings would still push through but they might be done at a later date instead of the original schedule of May and June.

The $250-million bond issue backed by the ADB may have to be deferred to September as the multilateral agency observes a certain process before releasing its guarantee. The ADB has yet to select an underwriter for the borrowing.

Also delayed is the $250-million 15-year bond float guaranteed by the Opic and to be underwritten by Bear Stearns.

The power firm had reduced to $1.2 billion from $2 billion the size of its offshore borrowings programmed for the year.

Camacho said the $800-million decline in the power firm's requirements would substantially reduce the government's funding risks this year.

Analysts and investors are worried that the huge requirements of Napocor may pressure on the fiscal sector which is already burdened with piles of public debt and sizeable borrowings. The national government had to borrow at least $900 million more to complete a $2.4-billion requirement this year.

SEC reports 27% rise in foreign investments

By Elena R. Torrijos

FOREIGN direct investments in new and existing domestic stock corporations and partnerships based on paid-up capital grew last year by 27 percent to P5.2 billion from P4.09 billion the year before, the Securities and Exchange Commission said in a report.

The SEC said the investment figure did not include a "premium" amounting to P25.7 billion paid by a "Japanese investor" for equity infusion into a domestic corporation with overseas operations and engaged in food and manufacturing.

The corporate watchdog was apparently referring to Japanese brewer Kirin's investment in food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. early last year.

Largely because of the inflow from the Japanese firm, total paid-up investments in existing domestic companies more than doubled to P77.32 billion last year from P38.11 billion a year ago.

"The marked increase in additional equity investments were registered as the commission implemented in earnest its regulations intended to protect and promote the interests of the planholders and investors in pre-need and financing corporations, respectively," the government agency said.

In terms of authorized and subscribed capital, investments last year shot up to P196.27 billion from P87.54 billion and to P95.79 billion from P46.84 billion.

In the meantime, the SEC also reported that total paid-up capital infusions into new local companies and partnerships, both by Filipinos and foreigners, reached P17.59 billion in 2002 or practically the same amount as that recorded the previous year.

However, in terms of authorized and subscribed capital, the investments fell slightly to P67.81 billion from P71.01 billion and to P26.62 billion from P28.08 billion.

The SEC said the mixed performance of the Philippine corporate sectors in 2002 in terms of new and additional equity investments was not surprising as investors preferred to hold on to their liquid resources amid worldwide instability and aborted global economic recovery.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE
Quezon City

BIR WARNING TO CONCERNED BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS

The April-May 2003 Visitations: Over the past weeks, your Bureau of Internal Revenue has been visiting business establishments across the country to verify taxpayers' compliance with registration, invoicing and bookkeeping requirements.

The Discouraging Findings: Regrettably, some 11,059 establishments have already been apprehended in just twelve days of the BIR Tax Compliance Verification Drive, an activity we will intensify and pursue for the rest of the year.

The violations documented carry sanctions that include the confiscation and forfeiture of unauthorized cash register and point-of-sale (POS) machines, invoices/receipts and related business tools, as well as payment of deficiency taxes, 25%/50% surcharge, 20% interest and penalty [which ranges from P1,000 to P50,000 depending on the nature and frequency of the violation pursuant to Revenue Memorandum Order (RMO) No. 56-2000] and imprisonment (for offenses that are subject to criminal prosecution). It is therefore in our common interest that you immediately comply with the following, *if you still have not done so*:

A. Requirements prior to start of business operation:

1. Register your establishment and all branch offices/facilities with the Revenue District Office having jurisdiction over your place of business (BIR Forms 1901/1903), and thereafter display in a conspicuous place within the establishment the Certificate of Registration (BIR Form 2303). A registration fee of P500.00 shall be paid upon registration using BIR Form 0605. For particulars of the BIR business requirements, please refer to Sec. 236 of the 1997 Tax Code, RMO 54-98 as modified by Revenue Regulations (RR) 11-99 and RMO 82-99;
2. Register books of accounts as provided for under Sec. 232 in relation to Sec. 236 of the Tax Code, RMC 13-82 and RMO 29-2002;
3. Request for the following permits:
    a. to print/issue receipts and invoices (BIR Form 1906), and thereafter post a Notice on the issuance of receipts/invoices in the business premise pursuant to Secs.113 and 237 of the Tax Code, RR 4-2000 and RMO 28-2002;
    b. to use cash register and POS machines (BIR Form 1907) as required under RR 10-99, which likewise mandates all taxpayers who were granted permits BEFORE the effectivity of the Regulations to re-apply for a new permit;
    c. to use loose-leaf books of accounts/accounting records/documents or computerized accounting system/components thereof (BIR Form 1900) pursuant to RMC 13-82 & RMO 29-2002.

B. Requirements during business operation:

1. Pay annually a registration fee of P500.00 for every separate or distinct establishment or place of business *on or before January 31*(BIR Form 0605) as required under Secs. 113 and 236 of the Tax Code;
2. Issue registered invoices/receipts for sale of goods or services as provided for under Secs. 113 and 237 of the Tax Code and RR V-1;
3. Keep duly-registered books of accounts in the business premises at all times pursuant to Sec. 232 of the Tax Code;
4. Preserve ALL books of accounts for audit purposes within 3 years from the last day prescribed by law for the filing of return or actual date of filing of return, whichever comes later, pursuant to Sec. 235 of the Tax Code.

C. Tax Payments and Deadlines;

BIR Form	Form Title	Deadline
1601-C, E and F	Monthly Remittance Return of Income Taxes Withheld on Compensation, Expanded and Final Income Taxes	10th day of the following month (Jan-Nov) or 15th of the following month (Dec)
1701 Q	Quarterly Income Tax Return for Self-Employed, Estates and Trusts (Including those with both business and compensation income)	April 15 – 1st Qtr. Aug. 15- 2nd Qtr. Nov. 15 –3rd Qtr.
1701	Annual Income Tax Return for Self-Employed, Estates and Trusts (Including those with both business and compensation income)	April 15
1702 Q	Quarterly Income Tax Return for Corporations and Partnerships	60 days after end of Qtr.
1702	Annual Income Tax Return for Corporations and Partnerships year (for taxpayers on fiscal year)	April 15 (for taxpayers on calendar yr. basis) or on or before the 15th day of 4th month ff the close of the fiscal
2550M	Monthly Value-Added Tax Declaration	20th of the ff. month
2550Q	Quarterly Value-Added Tax Return	25th day of the month following the taxable Qtr.
2551M	Monthly Percentage Tax Return	20th of the ff. month
2551Q	Quarterly Percentage Tax Return (Applicable Only for Transactions Covered under Secs. 120 and 125 of the Tax Code)	20th day of the month following the taxable Qtr.

(For taxpayers availing of the Electronic Filing and Payment System; please refer to RR Nos. 9-2001, 2-2002, 9-2002, and 26-2002.)

The RRs, RMOs and RMCs governing business requirements may be viewed at and downloaded from the BIR website (www.bir.gov.ph) or you may also call up any BIR District Office. By 1 August this year, we will announce the opening of a BIR Call Center, which shall not only receive complaints and reports of fraud from the public but more importantly, respond to business information needs on BIR matters.

Though some people may have an ambivalent feeling about taxes, in truth, taxes speed up our country's machinery for substantive growth. It is evident from the verifications undertaken thus far that there is great temptation not to pay the correct taxes. This is, therefore, a special time for me to ask you to pull yourselves away from this practice. I encourage all of you to do your patriotic share in making your taxes the vehicle through which we can ensure a life of peace, progress and prosperity for our loved ones, and for every Filipino.

GUILLERMO L. PARAYNO, JR.
Commissioner of Internal Revenue

Inquirer-May 12 2003

IPP deal to save gov't P576M

THE GOVERNMENT stands to generate at least P576 million in savings from its recently concluded IPP renegotiations with Aboitiz power subsidiary Luzon Hydro Corp. (LHC) for its 70-MW Bakun AC Project.

Under the letter-agreement, which has yet to be approved by the creditors of the Bakun project, the P576 million in savings will be realized through the voluntary assumption of the obligations of state-owned National Power Corp. that include the following: P555 million in real property taxes, P16 million used for the construction of the Alilem-Sudipen Bridge in Ilocus Sur, and the condonation of around P5 million in accounts receivable.

The Bakun AC Project, the first build-operate-transfer hydro power plant in the Philippines, is a joint venture between Aboitiz Equity Ventures (AEV) and Pacific Hydro Ltd. of Australia. This run-of-river project on the Bakun River is situated in the Cordillera Central mountain range in northern Luzon, a region that gets considerable rainfall during the year.

According to Edgardo del Fonso, president of the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp.: "On top of the estimated P576 million in savings, additional savings will come in the form of a 5-percent reduction in nominated capacity for the facility."

RP gaining . . .

From page B1

ports to $714.14 million in the first quarter this year to China's SARS woes that have forced buyers from the United States and Europe to go to the Philippines to fill up their inventories.

Juliano expressed confidence that demand would remain robust for the rest of the year. He expected garments and textile exports to post double-digit growth rates this year after falling by an average of 6.5 percent in 2001 and 2002.

Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry president Sergio Ortiz-Luis said China's admission that the SARS epidemic was worse than what it had originally reported has forced some MNCs to rethink their policy of consolidating their Asian manufacturing operations in the Mainland.

Ortiz-Luis said that Japanese communication equipment maker Uniden Corp. has reportedly reconsidered its plan to trim down its operations in the Philippines (it has closed down its Laguna and FTI Complex factories) to expand its business in China.

Ortiz-Luis also reported that semiconductor firms in the country have boosted their production as a result of the diversion of the MNCs' production from China to other Asian countries that were less affected by SARS.

Cocktales

From page B3

Baguio tricks

- THE newly rehabilitated Marcos Highway has already lost a large number of its road/directional signs to vandals and thieves.
- BIR Regional Director Estrella Martinez reduced the estate tax liabilities of the late businessman Gelacio Munsayac Sr. and his wife Vicenta from P25.5 million, as had been recommended by the local BIR assessment unit, to P2.1 million.
- IN a case of identity theft, someone filed an administrative complaint against Baguio Metropolitan Trial Court Judge Alberto Aragon using the name of Baguio-based electronics exporter Michael London.

Short takes

- THE LOCAL Polycosmic Records has been acquired from businessman Ramon Chuaying by his US principals.
- MCDONALD'S is riding the coffee shop wave by converting a section of its popular stand-alone outlet in Greenbelt into a McCafe. The US chain is also opening a branch further north of Paseo de Roxas after Ayala Ave., offering a great view of the park across from the former Ugarte field.
- THE MERALCO plan to build a sub-station in Legaspi Village open carpark to service Greenbelt's burgeoning power needs is being opposed by buildings directly across the planned substation, which would be right in front of the Northwest Airlines offices.

Heard through the grapevine

EX-SEN. Juan Ponce Enrile, in support of Ping Lacson's candidacy, has formed a legal panel tasked to dig whatever dirt it can against pro-GMA law firm Villaraza and Angangco.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.

Court urged to resolve cement suit

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

A CONSUMER group is urging the judiciary to resolve a case filed by the Philippine Cement Manufacturers Corp. in order to stop the collection of a provisional duty on imported cement and enable cement importers to get back the extra tariffs they paid over the last 12 months.

In a letter to Supreme Court administrator Presbitero J. Velasco Jr., Consumers Union of the Philippines president Quirino Marquinez said the delay in the final disposition of the Philcemcor case has left only one or two traders still involved in the cement trade but could cease to operate with the continued collection of the provisional duty.

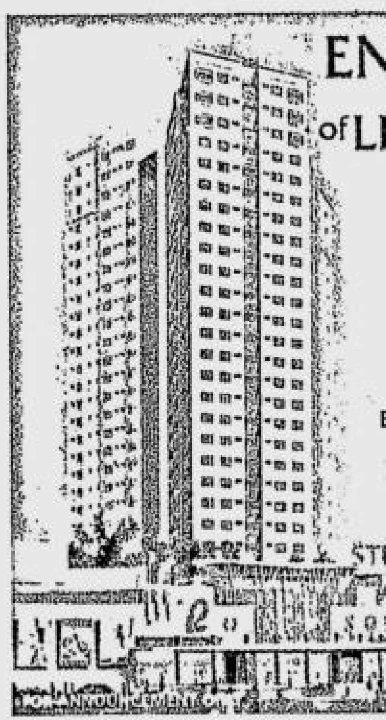
Marquinez said cement imports played a role in maintaining a "contestable market" and preventing the world's largest cement makers—Lafarge, Cemex, and Holcim—from running the cement industry as an oligopoly with a combined 89 percent share of total production.

Philcemcor successfully obtained a writ of preliminary injunction on April 22 last year barring the government from lifting the safeguard measures.

The DTI had granted a P20.60 provisional duty per 40-kilogram bag of imported cement in December 2001 pending the Tariff Commission's review on its decision to impose permanent duty and quotas on cement imports.

Philcemcor appealed for safeguard measures against cement imports to stop what it alleged as dumping of excess cement by Taiwan and Japan and which had resulted into losses in earnings and market share.

However, the Tariff Commission found no direct connection between the cement industry's financial woes and the import surge since 1999, leaving the DTI with no choice but to lift the provisional duty and reimburse the importers' cash bonds they paid for the provisional duty.



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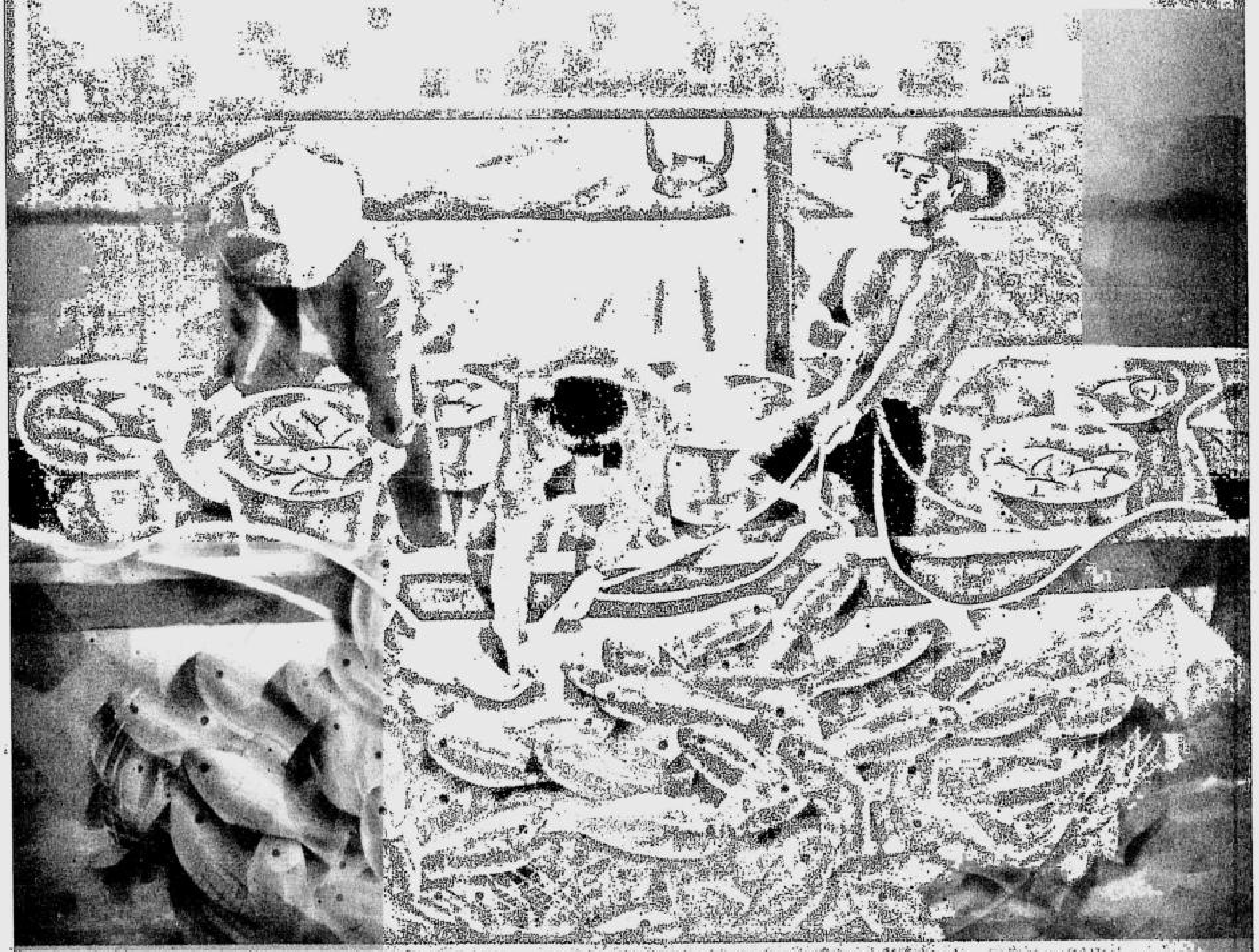

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Next Mobile offers to buy Capwire

By Abigail L. Ho

IN A BID to expand its services, trunk radio operator Next Mobile Philippines Inc. has offered to acquire a majority shareholding in cash-strapped telecommunications firm Capitol Wireless Inc.

Capwire confirmed in a statement Friday that Next Mobile had extended a formal offer to acquire a majority stake in the firm from Capwire's holding company, Republic Telecommunications Holdings Inc. (Retelcom).

However, the company said no final decision had been made at this point as Next Mobile's proposal would have to be reviewed.

"The offer is still subject to certain preconditions that have to be met, such as the approval of the creditor-banks," Capwire said.

Capwire is saddled with about P1 billion worth of debts. Its creditors include Export and Industry Bank, Land Bank of the Philippines, Development Bank of the Philippines, Philippine National Bank, United Overseas Bank, Bank of the Philippine Islands and Manulife.

As Capwire is currently undergoing a debt-restructuring exercise, its creditors have a big say in how the company will go about its business, including the programming of its capital expenditures and the infusion of fresh funds.

"Should the proposal move forward, details of the transaction would be released at a later date," Capwire said.

Next Mobile's franchise only allows it to provide trunk radio services. Capwire, on the other hand, has an international gateway facility and Internet and data businesses.

These are seen to boost Next Mobile's foothold in the local telecommunications market if the acquisition of a majority stake in Capwire takes place.

However, the trunk radio operator will still have to hurdle some obstacles in its bid to propel its business to new heights.

The House committee on transportation and communications is currently conducting an inquiry on the firm's ownership structure.

Although the National Telecommunications Commission had already dismissed a similar case against Next Mobile, citing lack of jurisdiction, the House of Representatives will still continue its own investigation.

Globe Telecom, Jollibee join Morgan's RP stock index

By Doris C. Dumlao

MORGAN Stanley Capital International Inc. (MSCI), a leading provider of global indices, has realigned its 15-stock Philippine basket to include blue chips Globe Telecoms and fast-food giant Jollibee Foods Corp.

In its index review for May 2003, MSCI said the two companies would be added to the Philippine benchmark index to replace Philippine National Bank and Universal Robina Corp. starting this May 30.

Leading digital telecommunications provider Globe Telecom will immediately account for 10.75 percent of the MSCI Philippine index, the fourth highest in the 15-stock basket after Bank of the Philippine Islands, Ayala Land Inc. and San Miguel Corp. "B."

Jollibee, on the other hand, will be given a weight of 2.83 percent, ranking 10th in the Philippine basket.

BPI and ALI, which are likewise part of the Ayala conglomerate, will have respective weights of 13.91 percent and 12.54 percent in the index, while SMC will be given 12.14 percent.

Analysts said the realignment by MSCI, whose indices are widely followed by global portfolio managers, would benefit Globe Telecom and Jollibee because of the inclusion while all other stocks will be diluted by the new weights.

Overall, conglomerate Ayala Corp. is also expected to benefit because Globe Telecom's inclusion will give the Ayala group a combined weight of 46.19 percent in the MSCI Philippine index, up from the 37.8 percent weight during the previous adjustment.

Other stocks which were maintained in the MSCI basket (ranking 5th to 9th) and their latest weights were: SM Prime Holdings Inc. (9.31 percent); Ayala Corp. (8.99 percent); Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (8.86 percent); Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. (8.38 percent), and Equitable PCI Bank (3.28 percent).

The five other stocks maintained in the basket, ranking 11th to 15th, were: Manila Electric Co. "B" (2.31 percent); Petron Corp. (2.12 percent); Filinvest Land Inc. (1.83 percent); ABS-CBN Holdings Philippine Depository Receipts (1.79 percent), and Megaworld Corp. (0.97 percent).

MSCI's selection criteria include size, long- and short-term volume, cross-ownership and public float. By targeting 60 percent of each industry group, the index captures 60 percent of the total country market capitalization while maintaining the overall risk structure of the market.

MSCI, which is majority owned by global financial services firm Morgan Stanley Dean Witter & Co., tracks more than 3,000 indices covering 51 countries across developed and emerging markets.

SC ruling seen affecting PEA deals

THE SUPREME Court decision nullifying the PEA-Amari deal is expected to adversely affect 10 other reclamation projects in the country.

This was the contention of small Cyber Bay (formerly Amari) shareholders who assailed the recent Supreme Court decision scrapping the PEA-Amari deal.

Cyber Bay shareholders' spokesperson Carol Sy said the 10 other developers which have similar land agreements with PEA were DM Wenceslao & Jan de Nul Consortium, Shoemart Inc., Royal Asia, TOA Corp., FF Cruz, Seaoil, Bacolod Real Estate Development Corp. and Construction Development Corp.

"We are looking at billions of pesos across these 10 PEA-led land agreements. In fact, the decision not only sends a negative message to all foreign investors that the Philippine government could not be relied on to make good its word on such contracts. This smacks of a dangerous precedent," Sy said.

The SC ruling would automatically invalidate all the titles issued to private corporations. "By virtue of the titles being illegal, the sale or the act of mortgaging such to financial institutions will also constitute an illegal act," she said.

In the joint-venture agreement between Shoemart and the PEA, the former was granted land titles for 49.45 has or a 35-percent share of the gross area. For the R-1 Expressway project, DM Wenceslao and consortium stands to loose its land tiles amounting to 112 has or 55 percent of the gross area.

In the case of Cyber Bay consortium, among the foreign companies it tapped into were Italian Development Co. Ltd., Centasia Group Ltd., HOK International, McDonough Associates Inc., Wilbur Smith & Associates, Robert Trent Jones II.

At the same time, Sy said the high tribunal's decision meant that there was no way the small Cyber Bay stockholders could get their money back.

Tanduay not keen on raising VMC stake

LEADING rum-maker Tanduay Holdings Inc. of tobacco magnate Lucio Tan is not keen on taking over majority control of Victorias Milling Corp. despite winning the bid to be its white knight, top company officials said.

In an interview with the INQUIRER on the sidelines of the company's stockholders' meeting last week, Tanduay president Wilson Young said the company had no plans to increase its stake in VMC.

Tanduay recently won the bidding for the right to provide the P300-million cash infusion needed by VMC. The loan, in turn, is convertible into about 16-percent stake in the sugar mill.

Asked about plans by two other taipans—John Gokongwei Jr. and Andrew Gotianun—to buy out the outstanding loans of VMC held by creditor-banks, Young said it was fine with Tanduay to share control with them.

By winning the VMC bidding, however, analysts said the Lucio Tan group would effectively become the single biggest stakeholder in the sugar mill. Aside from the additional 16-percent equity to be gained upon the conversion of the loan, one of VMC's biggest creditor-banks is Tanduay's affiliate Philippine National Bank.

During Tanduay's stockholders' meeting, company chair Lucio Tan said the board should be congratulated for winning the VMC bidding. He also said that such efforts to help VMC would benefit Tanduay, noting that the fortunes of the sugar and rum industry were "intertwined."

"Where the sugar industry goes, so goes the rum industry," Tan said.

As the country's largest sugar mill, Tan also noted that VMC was providing livelihood to many people on Negros Island, one of the biggest markets for Tanduay's rum.

"The successful rehabilitation of VMC will boost the economy of Negros and, in turn, translate to better sales for Tanduay," Tan said.

"Of course, this move will also enhance our image and goodwill among the Negrenses. Lastly, this is our way of thanking the sugar industry," he said.

With the infusion of P300 million into VMC, Tanduay is still left with about P540 million in investible funds. *Doris C. Dumlao*

INTEREST RATES

May 09, 2003-MART1 Rates

Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 9-May-03 (%)	MART1 8-May-03 (%)
1 Month	7.6096	7.6269
3 Months	7.8712	7.8827
6 Months	8.6789	8.6938
1 Year	9.0462	9.0096
2 Years	9.475	9.5192
3 Years	10.4077	10.5154
4 Years	11.1115	11.1981
5 Years	11.4769	11.5423
7 Years	11.9712	12.0019
10 Years	12.7538	12.7346
20 Years	13.1096	13.0873
25 Years	13.6212	13.645

SOURCE : MART/BLOOMBERG

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Friday, May 9, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4	4	4	4	14,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	15.5	15.5	15	15	205,400
Bank of the Phil. Islands	36.5	36.5	36.5	36.5	1,384,000
Citystate Savings Bank	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	24.75	24.75	24.5	24.75	71,100
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	28	28	27.5	27.5	46,500
Philippine National Bank	24	24	24	24	247,700
Security Bank Corp.	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	2,500
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	80,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1380	1380	1380	1380	2,570
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71	10,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1020	1020	1010	1010	490
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	13	13	13	13	300
Diversified Fin. Network	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	4,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.75	0.77	0.74	0.75	6,480,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	585	590	565	570	39,480
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.033	0.036	0.033	0.036	17,700,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	5,300,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3	3	3	3	86,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.3	0.31	8,230,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	402.5	405	400	402.5	93,270
Ivantage Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.39	0.39	400,000
Philweb Corp.	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.012	11,300,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	102,000
Manila Electric Co. B	10	10.25	10	10	1,665,000
Petron Corp.	2.16	2.16	2.12	2.12	2,465,000
Trans-Asia Oil And Energy	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	1,000,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.48	2.55	2.48	2.55	200,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.53	0.53	0.5	0.5	2,770,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.58	1.58	1.58	1.58	40,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	880,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	29	29	29	29	9,600
Jollibee Foods Corp.	15.25	15.75	15.25	15.75	1,376,200
San Miguel Corp. A	56	56	55	55.5	258,100
San Miguel Corp. B	65.5	66	65.5	66	162,700
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.33	0.33	0.32	0.33	360,000
Ayala Corp.	4.15	4.2	4.15	4.15	2,947,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.32	2.32	2.28	2.28	248,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	1,000,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10	10	10	10	1,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	50,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.22	0.22	0.21	0.21	9,230,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	500,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.21	0.21	370,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.021	0.021	0.021	0.021	200,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	737,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	8.3	8.3	8.2	8.2	660,000
Ionics Inc.	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	10,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	6,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.56	0.57	0.56	0.57	1,080,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	1,000,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.175	1,020,000
Music Corp.	0.29	0.3	0.29	0.3	2,260,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.08	0.09	0.08	0.09	1,900,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	10,000
Interphil Labs Inc. A	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	12,000
Metro Alliance Holdings	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	10,000
Metro Alliance Hldgs B	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	17,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1.9	1.92	1.84	1.88	19,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.41	0.41	0.39	0.39	1,210,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	20,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.33	0.38	0.33	0.38	200,000
Mondragon Intl Phils Inc.	0.18	0.25	0.18	0.25	1,980,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.095	0.105	0.095	0.105	160,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.25	284,000
Philweb Corp. - Warrants	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	10,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5	5.1	5	5	9,305,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.11	0.12	0.11	0.12	1,350,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	300,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	0.88	0.89	0.86	0.86	4,770,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	1,700,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	20,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	4.95	4.95	4.85	4.85	2,639,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	100,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	4,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	1,200,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	850,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	1,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0038	0.0038	0.0036	0.0036	21,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0044	0.0044	0.0042	0.0042	20,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	100,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	200,000
Interport Res.	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	10,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	2,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	4,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	80,000,000

DISCLOSURES

BASIC Consolidated Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 30, 3 p.m. at the Manila Elks Club, 7/F, Corinthian Plaza, Makati City. Only stockholders as of April 29 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

MONDRAGON International Philippines Inc. disclosed the appointment of Faustino Roberto as president and chief operating officer of the company.

* * *

BANKARD Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 29, 2:30 p.m. at the 5/F, St. La Salle Hall, RCBC Plaza, Makati City. Only stockholders as of April 29 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

INDEPENDENT directors of **San Miguel Corp.** are Iñigo Zobel, Winston Garcia, Corazon de la Paz and Henry Sy Sr.

* * *

INDEPENDENT directors of **Ginebra San Miguel Inc.** are Carmelo Santiago, Carlos Palanca III and Leo Alvez.

* * *

GLOBE Telecom Inc. will hold its investors' briefing on May 19, 2:30 p.m. at Rizal C Ballroom of Makati Shangri-La Hotel.

* * *

ROBINSONS Land Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 28, 4 p.m. at the Manansala Hall of Manila Galleria Suites, Pasig City. Only stockholders as of April 28 are entitled to vote at the meeting.

* * *

RIZAL Commercial Banking Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 30, 4 p.m. at the 47/F, Antonio delas Alas Executive Dining Hall of RCBC Plaza, Makati City. Stockholders as of May 30 are entitled to vote at the meeting.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **Tanduay Holdings Inc.** were Lucio Tan, Wilson Young, Mariano Tanenglian, Michael Tan, James Yu, Andres Co, Lucio Tan Jr., Peter Ong and William Chi Eng Co. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

May 9, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.869716	1.000000	52.021000
Japan	Yen	0.007443	0.008558	0.445200
United Kingdom	Pound	1.393373	1.602100	83.342800
Hongkong	Dollar	0.111520	0.128226	6.670400
Switzerland	Franc	0.662389	0.761615	39.620000
Canada	Dollar	0.624751	0.718339	37.368700
Singapore	Dollar	0.499981	0.574878	29.905700
Australia	Dollar	0.559735	0.643583	33.479800
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.307124	2.652731	137.997700
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.231919	0.266660	13.871900
Brunei	Dollar	0.498548	0.573230	29.820000
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000102	0.000117	0.006100
Thailand	Baht	0.020464	0.023529	1.224000
UAE	Dirham	0.236819	0.272294	14.165000
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.149800	59.813700
Argentina	Peso	0.314545	0.361664	18.814100
Brazil	Real	0.299386	0.344234	17.907400
Denmark	Kroner	0.134656	0.154828	8.054300
India	Rupee	0.018418	0.021177	1.101600
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.228903	0.263193	13.691600
Mexico	New Peso	0.085924	0.098795	5.139400
New Zealand	Dollar	0.499034	0.573789	29.849100
Norway	Kroner	0.126940	0.145956	7.592800
Pakistan	Rupee	0.015086	0.017346	0.902400
South Africa	Rand	0.120852	0.138956	7.228600
Korea	Won	0.000726	0.000835	0.043400
Sweden	Kroner	0.109430	0.125823	6.545400
Syria	Pound	0.020708	0.023810	1.238600
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025063	0.028818	1.499100
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000545	0.000627	0.032600

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CC AT TAGAYTAY	10,000	TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	35,000
EAGLE RIDGE "A"	10,000	TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	30,000
MLA SOUTHWOODS	45,000	WACK WACK	90,000

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EAGLE RIDGE "A"	270K	PUNTA FUEGO	Call now	STA ELENA "A"	1.35M
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ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "B"	1.4M	-
BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	-	600K
CAMP JOHN HAY	-	220K
CANLUBANG GOLF CLUB	450K	-
COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY	-	350K
EAGLE RIDGE "A"	245K	please call
FONTANA "D"	50K	-
FORST HILLS "A"	-	155K
MANILA GOLF CLUB (CORP.)	11M	-
MANILA POLO CLUB	2.350M	please call
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "A"	-	450K
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "B"	-	540K
MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	-	210K
PHILIPPINE COLUMBIAN	80K	60K
PUNTA FUEGO	550K	-
QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	185K	175K
STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "B"	please call	1.4M
SUBIC YACHT CLUB (CORP.)	145K	-
THE COUNTRY CLUB	2.2M	-
VALLE VERDE "A"	please call	130K
VALLEY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	-	250K
WACK WACK GOLF CLUB	6.5M	-

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Manila Southwoods A/B*	540,000	450,000
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Punta Fuego	500,000	400,000
Quezon City Sports Club "A"	220,000	-
Riviera Golf "A"/"C"*	280,000*	-
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Subic Bay Yacht Club "Corp"	290,000	-
Subic Golf	Pls. Call	-
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Calatagan Golf Club "B"	-	110,000
Camp John Hay	200,000	220,000
Canlubang	400,000	500,000
Canyonwoods	-	150,000
Capitol Hills	120,000	135,000
Celebrity Sports Club	160,000	185,000
Club Filipino	110,000	180,000
Evercrest "A"	-	80,000
Fontana "A"	-	200,000
Forest Hills "A"	150,000	185,000
Forest Hills "B"	-	190,000
Forest Hills "C"	200,000	250,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	200,000	250,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	200,000	-
Manila Golf (Corporate)	-	12,000,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	10,100,000	10,600,000
Manila Polo	2,300,000	2,450,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	450,000	500,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	540,000	600,000
Manila Yacht Club	-	600,000
Metropolitan Club "A"	90,000	135,000
Metropolitan Club "B"	-	135,000
Mimosa (Individual)	-	120,000
Mimosa (Corporate)	260,000	300,000
Montemar (Individual)	35,000	-
Mt. Malarayat (Individual)	-	300,000
Mt. Malarayat (Corporate)	-	500,000
Puerto Azul	-	100,000
Quezon City Sports Club	-	190,000
Rockwell	-	380,000
Sherwood Hills "A"	-	75,000
Sherwood Hills "B"	-	180,000
Sherwood Hills "C"	-	200,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,250,000	1,500,000
Sta. Elena "B"	1,600,000	-
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	-	250,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	120,000
Tagaytay Country Club	350,000	400,000
Tagaytay Highlands	750,000	820,000
Tagaytay Midlands	650,000	720,000
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Valley Golf	260,000	270,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	-	6,600,000

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BSP to extend moratorium on bank licensing, branching

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas said it would extend for at least another year the moratorium on the licensing of new banks and on the establishment of new branches even after the legislated ban on these activities expired next month.

BSP Governor Rafael Bueventura said that the policy-making Monetary Board (MB) was inclined to extend the moratorium indefinitely.

"While this has yet to be approved by the MB, the intention is to extend the ban by another year and evaluate it on a yearly basis. Right now, we still want the industry to consolidate," said the central bank chief.

He said keeping the ban on bank branching and licensing would encourage players to consolidate or to find their niches and sell some branches.

"If we will start giving out licenses again, we will create a glut which is what we are avoiding," said the BSP chief.

Buenaventura believed the local banking sector remained over crowded.

The General Banking Act, which took effect on June 2000, provides for a three-year moratorium on bank licensing.

The moratorium on the issuance of new bank licenses was imposed by the BSP in 1999, even before the General Banking Act was enacted.

Mergers and consolidation, according to Buenaventura, remained the key to having a stronger banking system. The idea is to have fewer but stronger banks that could withstand shocks similar to the 1997 Asian crisis.

The central bank also wants existing players to buy the branches that other lenders have closed.

"We have to make the system more efficient because the branches that banks have closed down or may close down should be bought by those wanting to increase their branches," said the BSP chief.

Banks that will merge or acquire another lender are allowed, as one of the incentives for consolidation, to move some of their branches to other sites.

The central bank is also readying a lineup of new incentives including the suspension of the moratorium on branching for banks undergoing consolidation or merger provided it would meet the capital requirements.

Buenaventura said old incentives that expired in 2001 were already revived.

"But the plan is to come up with new incentives," said the BSP chief.

The BSP offers perks to encourage more banks to merge. There are close to 1,000 banks operating in the Philippines and of this, more than 40 are commercial banks.

When he assumed his post as BSP chief in July 1999, Buenaventura said his vision was to have five strong banks that would compete aggressively with foreign banks and eventually, establish presence in the region.

Infra projects worth ₱16B OKd

By Michelle V. Remo

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has approved the implementation of P16.3 billion worth of projects on irrigation, flood control, electricity, urban-poor community development and judicial reform.

These projects were endorsed by the Investment Coordination Committee of the National Economic and Development Authority for the President's approval.

The biggest of these projects was the P6.24-billion Agno River Integrated Irrigation Project. It involves the rehabilitation of the Agno River Irrigation System and the Ambayaoan-Dipalo Irrigation Systems through the construction of a new diversion dam and drainage facilities.

The P4.34-billion Pasig-Marikina River Channel Improvement Project involves the construction of flood control structures for the entire stretch of the river to ease flood problems in the National Capital Region.

The Development of Urban Poor Communities Project, worth P2.12 billion, will provide affordable shelter and land tenure for urban poor households, and finance improvements in municipal services, facilities and infrastructure.

The Philippine Rural Power Project, worth P1.89 billion, will finance developments of the country's electric cooperatives and of new and renewable energy sources.

The other projects are the P1.29-billion Judicial Reform Support Project (JRSP) and the P446-million Automated Fingerprint Identification System.

US aircraft parts maker opens factory in Subic

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—D-J Aerospace Inc., a US firm engaged in the manufacturing of essential parts of Boeing aircraft, inaugurated its modern assembly plant here, with initial capitalization of P55 million and employing 221 highly skilled workers.

Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority Chair Felicito Payumo said the entry of D-J Aerospace was a diversification from the industries that Subic Freeport has been known for.

"This is something different from the usual electronic manufacturing and assembly businesses we have here," Payumo said.

D-J Aerospace vice president for operation Rashedul Chowdhury expressed confidence in Payumo's expression of SBMA's full support to their endeavor.

"In this kind of business, we could hardly tell if we're going to succeed or not, especially now that the aircraft business is down. But we are confident that, with the support of the SBMA and SBDMC, we would overcome the problems and even expand operations in the near future," Chowdhury said.

D-J Aerospace is engaged in the assembly of aircraft parts to complement the production operations of its mother company, D-J Engineering Inc. in Kansas, which also assembles other aircraft parts.

D-J Aerospace will assemble aircraft parts like crank spacers, fittings, angles, chord and inter-coastal assembly, including seat racks and engine mount for Boeing 747, door hinges and windowsills for Boeing 737.

Aside from Boeing 737 and 747, D-J Aerospace will also produce aircraft parts for Boeing 777, Gulfstream Private Jet and Eclipse Aviation.

He also assured the company that there would be low cost of power supply in the Freeport in a month or two with Aboitiz Equity Ventures (AEV) providing lower and more efficient power supply service.

Allan Macatuno, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Mirant, ILECO ink power deal

By Abigail L. Ho

INDEPENDENT power producer Mirant Philippines Corp. has signed a P260-million build-operate-own energy supply contract with Iloilo-1 Electric Cooperative Inc. (ILECO-1).

Under the 20-year contract, Mirant will finance, construct, operate and maintain a 10-megawatt diesel generating power station in Iloilo.

It will also rehabilitate and upgrade ILECO-1's 13.2-kilovolt distribution lines in the municipalities of Sta. Barbara and Pavia.

Mirant external vice president Paul Flake said the completion of the ILECO 1 contract was in response to the government's call on the private sector to help address the power shortage in the island of Panay.

Under the 20-year contract, Mirant will be supplying 38 percent of ILECO 1's 26-MW capacity. The remaining 16 MW that ILECO 1 requires is being supplied by state-run National Power Corp.

The IPP said that "competitive rates" would be employed under its electric power purchase agreement with ILECO 1, but it declined to reveal how much these rates were.

Mirant Philippines is a wholly owned subsidiary of Georgia-based Mirant Corp. It is the country's largest IPP, owning more than 2,000 MW of installed generating capacity nationwide. It also owns a stake in the natural gas-fired 1,200-MW Ilijan Power Plant run by the Napocor.

GOINGS-ON

RP's top employers

PIZZA Hut, the world's largest pizza restaurant, was named one of the Top 5 Best Employers in the Philippines in a recent Asia-wide study conducted by Dow Jones and Hewitt Associates, Management Association of the Philippines and Business World, together with Dow Jones publications, The Asian Wall Street Journal and Far Eastern Economic Review.

Janet Solsoloy, Pizza Hut vice president for human resources, said the award affirmed that the company placed a high premium on building people's capability anchored on teamwork, recognition, reward and high performance.

Over a period of two months, surveys were conducted among employees, chief executives and human resources professionals in China, Hong Kong, South Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand and the Philippines for the project. The respondents include 84,000 employees from 305 organizations representing 21 industry sectors.

Top financial institution

CITIGROUP was ranked the top financial institution in Asia in terms of reputation, management quality and investment potential in an annual survey conducted by the Far Eastern Economic Review (FEER).

It is the tenth consecutive year Citigroup has been voted the number one financial institution in Asia in FEER's Review 200 survey. In its previous surveys, FEER used Citibank as the corporate name, but began using Citigroup in 2000. Overall, Citgroup was ranked 16th out of 200 leading companies in Asia Pacific.

FEER's Review 200 ranking of Asia's leading companies is determined by a mail survey of executives and professionals throughout Asia. The survey received responses from 2,547 people in 12 Asia Pacific countries.

Thai Airways still bullish

THAI Airways decided to go ahead with plans to buy eight new long-haul Airbus aircraft for $981 million despite concerns over the deadly flu-like illness on its business.

The airline's board approved the purchase of eight Airbus A340s, a key part of a long-term development plan. The new planes, adding to another nine recently approved for purchase by the board, will increase Thai Airways' fleet to 92 over the next three years.

Thai Airways' decision came as other airlines in the region are cutting flights because of reduced demands.

The eight new Airbus aircraft will consist of three A340-500s and five A340-600s to be delivered between 2004 and 2006.

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MAYBANK WINS KLSE CORPORATE EXCELLENCE AWARDS
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Maybank Philippines' parent bank, based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, won the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange (KLSE) Corporate Excellence Awards 2002 for the Main Board category. The awards were presented by Acting Prime Minister YAB Dato' Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi at a recent ceremony, attended by more than 900 representatives from over 400 companies listed in the KLSE.

As a recipient of the KLSE Corporate Excellence Awards 2002, Maybank was cited as one of the top achievers in practicing excellent corporate conduct among the publicly-listed companies in Malaysia. This prestigious award significantly promotes the adherence to corporate governance standards and practices in Malaysia and recognizes those companies that strongly abide by such standards and best practices.

Eventually, the results of these awards will be published to over 300 major international fund managers and available to over 3 million investors of the KLSE from over 100 countries.

Maybank, the biggest banking group in Malaysia, was enlisted in the KLSE in 1962. Over the years, it has continued its leadership in the banking industry; aside from being consistently ranked among Asia's top 20 and the world's top 130 banks. With group assets of more than US$40 billion, Maybank has strengthened its presence in the ASEAN region. Maybank began its operations in the Philippines in 1997 and since then, has maintained an extensive branch network nationwide. Maybank has also expanded its reach in the major financial centers in the world including London and New York.

Maybank

Taxing out the Philippine auto industry

By Raul C. Dancel

(First of 3 parts)

SPECIAL REPORT

CAR prices are bound to go down in a couple of months. In a couple of years, however, the Philippines may not have an auto industry to speak of. Cars will be cheaper, but nearly all will be built or assembled abroad, most likely in China, Thailand or Vietnam. The country will become one big car showroom.

Congress is currently working on a law that will replace the 20-year-old motor vehicle tax system with one that is "simple, transparent and equitable value-based." The local auto industry is going along with it, considering the alternative. The Department of Finance has said that if Congress will be unable to come up with a law before it goes on recess next month, it will issue a revenue regulation that may jack up the prices of Asian utility vehicles to nearly P1 million each.

Senate Bill 2517 and House Bill 5719 offer themselves as answers to the middle-class dream of owning a brand new vehicle, but they will also take away whatever incentives the country still has to develop a truly Filipino car and its own auto industry.

Redefinition

The two bills redefine the term "automobile" to include almost all vehicles. The new definition will cover Asian utility vehicles, sport utility vehicles, vans and pickups, removing distinctions that are being used to determine the taxes that car companies must pay, such as seating capacity and local content.

SB 2517 and HB 5719 also removed engine displacement and differentiation according to fuel type as bases for taxation and adopt a four-tiered value-based system.

The net effect, if these bills become a law, is that the prices of compact sedans like the Toyota Corolla and Honda Civic—currently at P750,000 to P950,000—will fall by as much as 35 percent, and new subcompacts—cars with smaller engines—will retail for around P500,000 to P600,000.

Honda Cars Philippines Inc. has already introduced the 2003 City, while Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. is set to unveil the Soluna Vios this week. Both models take full advantage of the new tax system in case Congress gets around to approving before it goes on recess in June.

A gray area in the equation is whether the government will indeed earn as much as it expects from the new excise tax system—and whether it will all be worth the sacrifice.

LOCALLY assembled cars ready for delivery. Soon, there will be less of these locally made sedans here and more of imports from neighboring Asian countries.

Casualties

Among the casualties of the new tax measure, however, will be the assembly, spare parts and used car industries and all the workers and subcontractors they employ.

While labor unions under the Automobile Industry Workers Association (Aiwa) have already signed a manifesto backing Senate Bill 2517 and House Bill 5719 for lack of a better choice, the future of over 77,000 workers in the local auto industry still hangs.

In a recent industry forum, Aiwa president Frank Mero disclosed that close to 7,000 auto workers, mostly in the car parts industry, have already lost their jobs since 1997 because of a slump triggered by the Asian financial crisis.

"Hindi diyan nagtatapos ang aming krisis. Ang pinakamalaki naming problema ngayon ay ang pinag-uusapan na value-based excise tax. (Our crisis doesn't end there. Our biggest problem now is the value-based excise tax)," Mero said.

With tariffs going down to zero in Asia and the local-content incentive in the Philippines no longer relevant, car companies with assembly factories here will likely close shop and move to places where they can cut costs and where organized labor is more docile and controllable, like China, Thailand or Vietnam, taking away the bread-and-butter business of at least 256 auto parts suppliers.

Already, Honda Cars Philippines Inc. has announced that it was cutting by half its assembly activities this year as part of its rationalization program towards completely built-up operations.

Also, with brand-new cars becoming cheaper, people will be less enticed to buy late-model used cars.

Raising gov't revenue

Why are we in this situation?

The government has been looking for ways to get more taxes out of the auto industry, so it can cut its ballooning budget deficit. One big source of its income has been the excise taxes that come from car companies. The local auto industry pays about P15 billion in taxes each year.

An excise tax is an indirect tax charged on the sale of a particular good. It is considered to be an indirect form of taxation since it does not involve the government directly taxing people. A middleman—either the producer or merchant—is charged and then must pay the tax to the government.

These taxes can be categorized into two categories by their structure: ad valorem, a fixed percentage charged on a particular good; and, specific, a fixed amount based on the quantity purchased.

In recent years, excise tax has been used to describe just about every tax except income tax.

Excise taxes are sometimes referred to as "sin taxes" because they are essentially penalties for excesses, and are therefore usually levied on luxury items such as alcohol and tobacco.

In the local auto industry, the concept of luxury has been equated with engine size. The assumption is that the bigger the engine, the more it pollutes the environment and should, therefore, carry a hefty tax to discourage their use or consumption. It is also held that luxury cars often have engine displacements that are bigger than normal cars.

Size matters

The existing tax system is, therefore, based on engine displacement—generally, how large an engine is—and fuel type, either gasoline or diesel.

Gasoline engines with a displacement of up to 1,600 cc and diesel engines with a displacement of 1,800 cc currently carry a 15-percent excise tax. Gasoline engines with a displacement of between 1,601 cc and 2,000 cc and diesel engines with a displacement of 1,801 cc to 2,300 cc—the most common type of engines used on the road—are slapped a 35-percent excise tax.

Gasoline engines with a displacement of 2,001 cc to 2,700 cc, normally found in luxury cars like the Mercedes Benz C320 and BMW 326, and diesel engines with a displacement of 2,301 cc to 3,000 cc are levied a 50-percent excise tax. Gasoline engines with a displacement of over 2,701 cc—power-trains of cars like the Porsche Carrera—and diesel engines with a displacement of over 3,001 cc are levied a 100-percent tax.

Asian utility vehicles were exempted from excise taxes because they were considered as the closest thing to an indigenous car—a Filipino car. These models have a uniquely Filipino design and half the parts used in them come from domestic sources.

The existing set-up is now considered "no longer viable" and inequitable, considering the slump that the industry has been in since the 1997-98 Asian financial crisis and the government's dwindling tax take. *(To be continued)*

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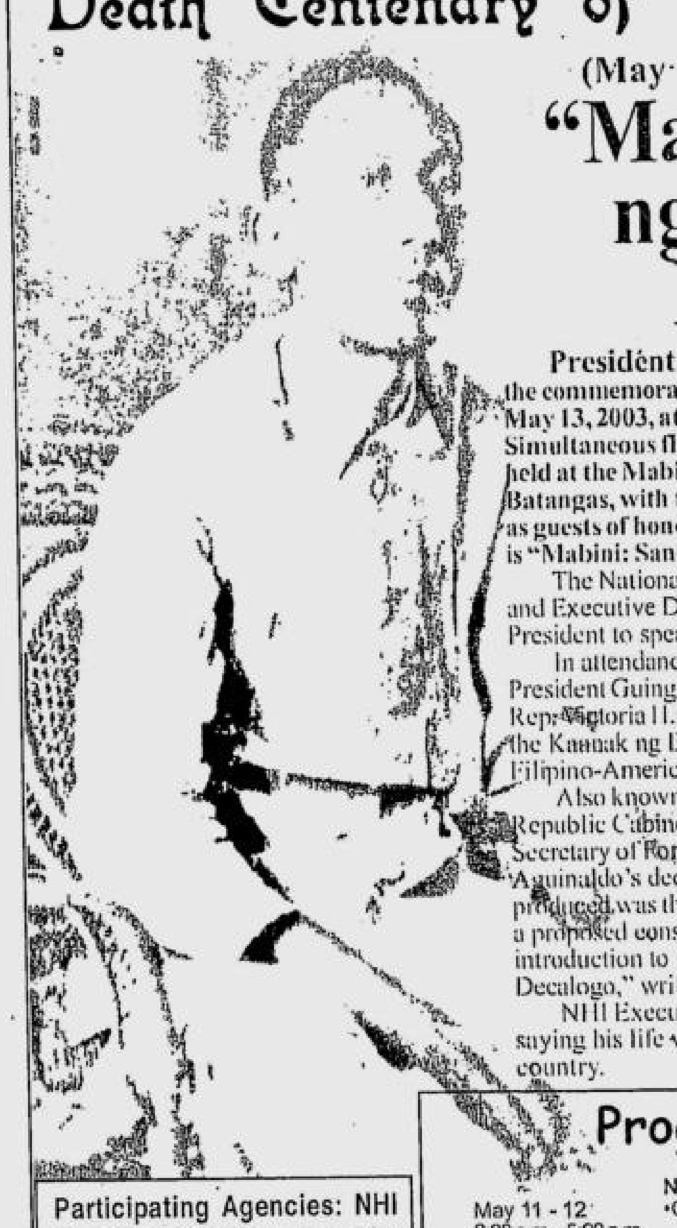

(May 13, 1903- May 13, 2003)

"Mabini: Sandigan ng Matatag na Republika"

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo leads the nation in the commemoration of the Death Centenary of Apolinario Mabini on May 13, 2003, at the Mabini Shrine, Pandacan, Manila. Simultaneous flag-raising and wreath-laying ceremonies shall be held at the Mabini Shrines in Pandacan and in Tanauan City, Batangas, with the President and Vice President Teofisto Guingona as guests of honor, respectively. The theme of the commemoration is "Mabini: Sandigan ng Matatag na Republika."

The National Historical Institute under Chair Ambeth Ocampo and Executive Director Ludovico D. Badoy has been directed by the President to spearhead the celebration.

In attendance at the Mabini Shrine in Tanauan City with Vice President Guingona will be Batangas Gov. Hermilando Mandanas, Rep. Victoria H. Hernandez-Reyes, Tanauan Mayor Alfredo C. Corona, the Kaanak ng Bayaning Pilipino, Descendants of the Heroes of the Filipino-American War and other provincial and city officials.

Also known as the "Sublime Paralytic," Mabini served in the First Republic Cabinet as President of the Council of Secretaries and as Secretary of Foreign Affairs. He penned most of President Emilio Aguinaldo's decrees to the people. An important document he produced was the "Programa Constitutional de la Republica Filipina," a proposed constitution for the First Philippine Republic. An introduction to the draft of this constitution was the "El Verdadero Decalogo," written to arouse the patriotic spirit of the people.

NHI Executive Director Badoy has paid tribute to Mabini, saying his life was replete with sacrifices, both for himself and the country.

Participating Agencies: NHI (Lead) • NCWDP • DepEd • NCCA • DSWD • Batangas Historical Commission • San Sebastian Library for the Arts • DILG • Commission on Higher Education • Province of Batangas • City of Tanauan • PIA • DOT • DFA • Kaanak ng Bayaning Pilipino • Descendants of Heroes of the Filipino-American War • BSP • GSP • PNP • PMS • OPS • PSG • AFP • DPWH • City of Manila • MMDA • PTV4 • NPDC • Philippine Postal Office

Program of Activities

	National Conference on Mabini
May 11 - 12 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	•College of Our Lady of Fatima Tanauan City, Batangas
	Flag-Raising and Wreath Laying Rites
May 13, 10:00 a.m.	•Mabini Shrine-Pandacan, Manila
May 13, 7:00 a.m.	•Mabini Shrine-Tanauan City, Batangas
	Concert "Alay kay Ka Pule"
May 13 – 5:30 p.m.	•Mabini Shrino-Pandacan, Manila •Featuring the Tribung Pinoy
July 21 – 5:00 p.m.	•Pres. Jose P. Laurel Gymnasium, Tanauan City, Batangas
	Stage Play on 'Mabini's Life and Heroism
May 15 – 5:00 p.m.	•Mabini Shrine-Pandacan, Manila
May23 – 5:00 p.m.	•Baluarte Plano Luneta de Sta Isabel,Intramuros, Manila
July 18 – 5:30 p.m.	•San Sebastian Library of Arts, Lipa City, Batangas
	History Quiz
July 18 – 5:30 p.m.	•San Sebastian Library of Arts, Lipa City, Batangas
	Photo Exhibits
May 15 – 21 10:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.	SM Mega Mall, Mandaluyong City

Other Activities/Projects:
•Mabini Centenary Stamp
•Printing of the " Mabini" (drama script by: Rene Villanueva)
•roduction of Commemorative Medals
•Awarding of Mabini Medals to selected students from 17 DepEd regions for academic excellence (c/o DepEd)
•Mabini Poster
•Mabini Centenary Souvenir

LandBank to hire adviser to help sell ₱20B in assets

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE LAND Bank of the Philippines will hire a financial adviser to help the bank dispose of non-performing loans and acquired assets worth between P15 billion and P20 billion.

The board of Landbank last week gave management the go-ahead to start the selection process after it was convinced that a financial adviser with experience in establishing asset management companies would fast-track the disposal of the bank's idle assets.

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"It would have an impact on the possible structure," Omar explained.

The SPV law provides tax breaks and other incentives for financial institutions to dispose of their non-performing loans or acquired assets.

Drop in GMA-7 ratings not due to channel change–Beyond Cable

By Abigail L. Ho

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In Dagupan, its audience share dropped by 5.3 percentage points to 13.7 percent in mid-March from 19 percent in November last year.

For the areas falling under the "rest of Metro Manila," GMA Network's audience share likewise dropped several notches to 24.7 percent in mid-March from 27 in November 2002.

"(Beyond Cable) did not implement any channel changes in the provincial areas, and yet in some of those areas, GMA's ratings also declined," Beyond Cable marketing head Joy Santos said in a statement.

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But Santos stressed that "the channel changes were meant to provide better video and audio quality to all broadcast stations in line with marketing thrusts to entice more non-cabled homes to subscribe to cable TV."

Taxing out the Philippine auto industry

By Raul C. Dancel

(First of 3 parts)

SPECIAL REPORT

CAR prices are bound to go down in a couple of months. In a couple of years, however, the Philippines may not have an auto industry to speak of. Cars will be cheaper, but nearly all will be built or assembled abroad, most likely in China, Thailand or Vietnam. The country will become one big car showroom.

Congress is currently working on a law that will replace the 20-year-old motor vehicle tax system with one that is "simple, transparent and equitable value-based." The local auto industry is going along with it, considering the alternative. The Department of Finance has said that if Congress will be unable to come up with a law before it goes on recess next month, it will issue a revenue regulation that may jack up the prices of Asian utility vehicles to nearly P1 million each.

Senate Bill 2517 and House Bill 5719 offer themselves as answers to the middle-class dream of owning a brand new vehicle, but they will also take away whatever incentives the country still has to develop a truly Filipino car and its own auto industry.

Redefinition

The two bills redefine the term "automobile" to include almost all vehicles. The new definition will cover Asian utility vehicles, sport utility vehicles, vans and pickups, removing distinctions that are being used to determine the taxes that car companies must pay, such as seating capacity and local content.

SB 2517 and HB 5719 also removed engine displacement and differentiation according to fuel type as bases for taxation and adopt a four-tiered value-based system.

The net effect, if these bills become a law, is that the prices of compact sedans like the Toyota Corolla and Honda Civic—currently at P750,000 to P950,000—will fall by as much as 35 percent, and new subcompacts—cars with smaller engines—will retail for around P500,000 to P600,000.

Honda Cars Philippines Inc. has already introduced the 2003 City, while Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. is set to unveil the Soluna Vios this week. Both models take full advantage of the new tax system in case Congress gets around to approving before it goes on recess in June.

A gray area in the equation is whether the government will indeed earn as much as it expects from the new excise tax system—and whether it will all be worth the sacrifice.

Casualties

Among the casualties of the new tax measure, however, will be the assembly, spare parts and used car industries and all the workers and subcontractors they employ.

While labor unions under the Automobile Industry Workers Association (Aiwa) have already signed a manifesto backing Senate Bill 2517 and House Bill 5719 for lack of a better choice, the future of over 77,000 workers in the local auto industry still hangs.

In a recent industry forum, Aiwa president Frank Mero disclosed that close to 7,000 auto workers, mostly in the car parts industry, have already lost their jobs since 1997 because of a slump triggered by the Asian financial crisis.

"Hindi diyan nagtatapos ang aming krisis. Ang pinakamalaki naming problema ngayon ay ang pinag-uusapan na value-based excise tax. (Our crisis doesn't end there. Our biggest problem now is the value-based excise tax)," Mero said.

With tariffs going down to zero in Asia and the local-content incentive in the Philippines no longer relevant, car companies with assembly factories here will likely close shop and move to places where they can cut costs and where organized labor is more docile and controllable, like China, Thailand or Vietnam, taking away the bread-and-butter business of at least 256 auto parts suppliers.

LOCALLY assembled cars ready for delivery. Soon, there will be less of these locally made sedans here and more of imports from neighboring Asian countries.

Already, Honda Cars Philippines Inc. has announced that it was cutting by half its assembly activities this year as part of its rationalization program towards completely built-up operations.

Also, with brand-new cars becoming cheaper, people will be less enticed to buy late-model used cars.

Raising gov't revenue

Why are we in this situation?

The government has been looking for ways to get more taxes out of the auto industry, so it can cut its ballooning budget deficit. One big source of its income has been the excise taxes that come from car companies. The local auto industry pays about P15 billion in taxes each year.

An excise tax is an indirect tax charged on the sale of a particular good. It is considered to be an indirect form of taxation since it does not involve the government directly taxing people. A middleman—either the producer or merchant—is charged and then must pay the tax to the government.

These taxes can be categorized into two categories by their structure: ad valorem, a fixed percentage charged on a particular good; and, specific, a fixed amount based on the quantity purchased.

In recent years, excise tax has been used to describe just about every tax except income tax.

Excise taxes are sometimes referred to as "sin taxes" because they are essentially penalties for excesses, and are therefore usually levied on luxury items such as alcohol and tobacco.

In the local auto industry, the concept of luxury has been equated with engine size. The assumption is that the bigger the engine, the more it pollutes the environment and should, therefore, carry a hefty tax to discourage their use or consumption. It is also held that luxury cars often have engine displacements that are bigger than normal cars.

Size matters

The existing tax system is, therefore, based on engine displacement—generally, how large an engine is—and fuel type, either gasoline or diesel.

Gasoline engines with a displacement of up to 1,600 cc and diesel engines with a displacement of 1,800 cc currently carry a 15-percent excise tax. Gasoline engines with a displacement of between 1,601 cc and 2,000 cc and diesel engines with a displacement of 1,801 cc to 2,300 cc—the most common type of engines used on the road—are slapped a 35-percent excise tax.

Gasoline engines with a displacement of 2,001 cc to 2,700 cc, normally found in luxury cars like the Mercedes Benz C320 and BMW 326, and diesel engines with a displacement of 2,301 cc to 3,000 cc are levied a 50-percent excise tax. Gasoline engines with a displacement of over 2,701 cc—power-trains of cars like the Porsche Carrera—and diesel engines with a displacement of over 3,001 cc are levied a 100-percent tax.

Asian utility vehicles were exempted from excise taxes because they were considered as the closest thing to an indigenous car—a Filipino car. These models have a uniquely Filipino design and half the parts used in them come from domestic sources.

The existing set-up is now considered "no longer viable" and inequitable, considering the slump that the industry has been in since the 1997-98 Asian financial crisis and the government's dwindling tax take. *(To be continued)*

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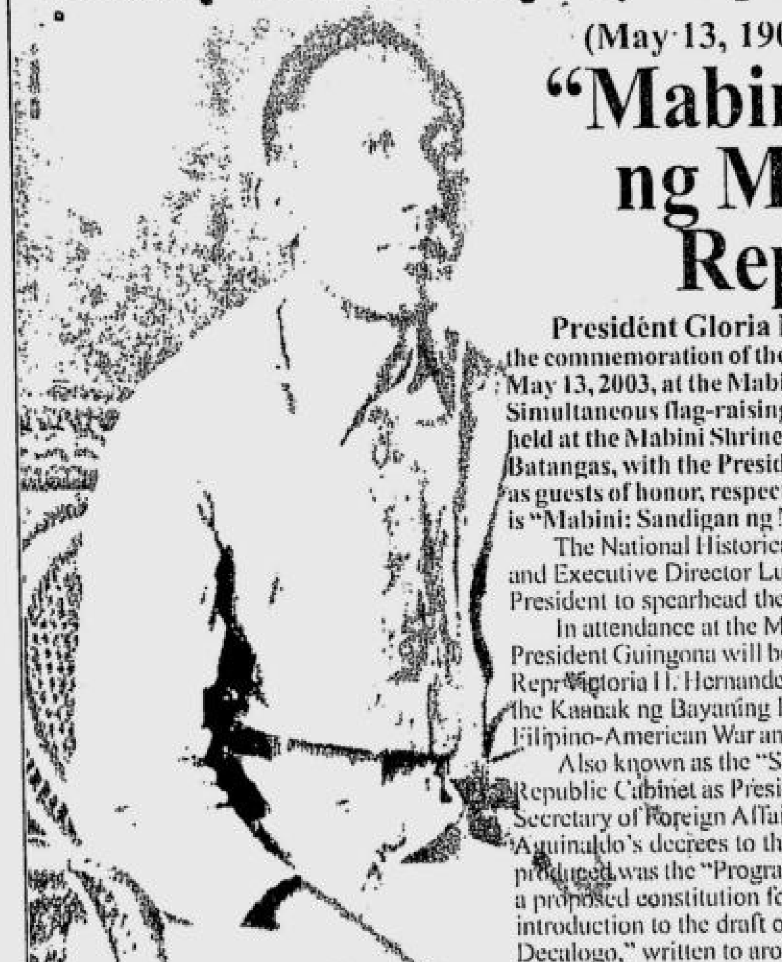
Death Centenary of Apolinario Mabini

(May 13, 1903- May 13, 2003)

"Mabini: Sandigan ng Matatag na Republika"



President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo leads the nation in the commemoration of the Death Centenary of Apolinario Mabini on May 13, 2003, at the Mabini Shrine, Pandacan, Manila. Simultaneous flag-raising and wreath-laying ceremonies shall be held at the Mabini Shrines in Pandacan and in Tanauan City, Batangas, with the President and Vice President Teofisto Guingona as guests of honor, respectively. The theme of the commemoration is "Mabini: Sandigan ng Matatag na Republika."

The National Historical Institute under Chair Ambeth Ocampo and Executive Director Ludovico D. Badoy has been directed by the President to spearhead the celebration.

In attendance at the Mabini Shrine in Tanauan City with Vice President Guingona will be Batangas Gov. Hermilando Mandanas, Rep. Victoria H. Hernandez-Reyes, Tanauan Mayor Alfredo C. Corona, the Kaanak ng Bayaning Pilipino, Descendants of the Heroes of the Filipino-American War and other provincial and city officials.

Also known as the "Sublime Paralytic," Mabini served in the First Republic Cabinet as President of the Council of Secretaries and as Secretary of Foreign Affairs. He penned most of President Emilio Aguinaldo's decrees to the people. An important document he produced was the "Programa Constitutional de la Republica Filipina," a proposed constitution for the First Philippine Republic. An introduction to the draft of this constitution was the "El Verdadero Decalogo," written to arouse the patriotic spirit of the people.

NHI Executive Director Badoy has paid tribute to Mabini, saying his life was replete with sacrifices, both for himself and the country.

Participating Agencies: NHI (Lead) • NCWDP • DepEd • NCCA • DSWD • Batangas Historical Commission • San Sebastian Library for the Arts • DILG • Commission on Higher Education • Province of Batangas • City of Tanauan • PIA • DOT • DFA • Kaanak ng Bayaning Pilipino • Descendants of Heroes of the Filipino-American War • BSP • GSP • PNP • PMS • OPS • PSG • AFP • DPWH • City of Manila • MMDA • PTV4 • NPDC • Philippine Postal Office

Program of Activities

	National Conference on Mabini
May 11 - 12 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	•College of Our Lady of Fatima Tanauan City, Batangas
	Flag-Raising and Wreath Laying Rites
May 13, 10:00 a.m.	•Mabini Shrine-Pandacan, Manila
May 13, 7:00 a.m.	•Mabini Shrine-Tanauan City, Batangas
	Concert "Alay kay Ka Pule"
May 13 – 5:30 p.m.	•Mabini Shrine-Pandacan, Manila •Featuring the Tribung Pinoy
July 21 – 5:00 p.m.	•Pres. Jose P. Laurel Gymnasium, Tanauan City, Batangas
	Stage Play on "Mabini's Life and Heroism
May 15 – 5:00 p.m.	•Mabini Shrine-Pandacan, Manila
May23 – 5:00 p.m.	•Baluarte Plano Luneta de Sta Isabel,Intramuros, Manila
July 18 – 5:30 p.m.	•San Sebastian Library of Arts, Lipa City, Batangas
	History Quiz
July 18 – 5:30 p.m.	•San Sebastian Library of Arts, Lipa City, Batangas
	Photo Exhibits
May 15 – 21 10:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.	SM Mega Mall, Mandaluyong City
	Other Activities/Projects: •Mabini Centenary Stamp •Printing of the " Mabini" (drama script by: Rene Villanueva) •roduction of Commemorative Medals •Awarding of Mabini Medals to selected students from 17 DepEd regions for academic excellence (c/o DepEd) •Mabini Poster •Mabini Centenary Souvenir

LandBank to hire adviser to help sell ₱20B in assets

By Elena R. Torrijos

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BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Oil up as Opec looks to cut supply again in June

NEW YORK—Oil prices rose nearly 3 percent on Friday as Opec's president said the producer cartel needed to cut back more supply next month to make room for a possible resumption of Iraqi exports.

The United States and Britain on Friday presented their case to the UN Security Council for ending 12 years of UN sanctions against Iraq, potentially paving the way for Iraqi supply to return next month.

US crude futures in New York rose 74 cents to $27.72 per barrel, hitting their highest level for two weeks, after gaining 5 percent in the last two sessions. In London, benchmark Brent crude rose 45 cents to $25.10.

In a boon to a weak world economy, oil prices have fallen by 30 percent in the last two months as Middle East oil facilities escaped severe damage from the war in Iraq, and Opec pumped up production to offset the loss of Iraqi exports.

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, which controls about half of world oil exports, surprised traders last month by cutting back less than expected on prewar supplies.

Opec President Abdullah al-Attiyah said in an interview published on Friday the cartel would have to implement new output cuts at its upcoming June 11 meeting to bolster prices.

"There is too much oil on the market and that is having a bad influence on prices ... Opec must implement new reductions in its production," Attiyah said in an interview with French daily Le Monde.

While increased supplies from Opec have helped replenish low US fuel stocks, crude and gasoline inventories are still below last year's levels heading into summer when vacation driving pushes up consumption. *Reuters*

HK readies three-phase economic recovery plan

HONG KONG—Hong Kong's top finance official said Saturday that a three-phase recovery plan for the territory's battered economy was in process but stressed no firm timetable was in place.

Financial chief Antony Leung, speaking to reporters after a first meeting of a new strategy group charged with restoring the territory's economic fortunes after the SARS crisis hitting the territory, said the three-phase process centered on response, reassurance and recovery.

"We believe that if we do not handle the response phase—where we are now—and the re-assurance phase well efforts to achieve an economic recovery would be difficult," Leung said.

Leung stressed that containing the spread of the virus, which has killed 210 people in Hong Kong and infected more than 1,600 others, was "the most effective measure in revitalising the economy," calling such efforts the top priority of the Hong Kong government.

Until local and international health authorities were satisfied that the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome was contained, "we can't talk about the timetable and ... implementing the programme to re-launch the economy." The territory's economic woes were compounded by an unprecedented travel advisory issued April 2 by the World Health Organization (WHO), which has leveled the territory's crucial aviation industry and left 40 percent of flights grounded.

A recent downturn in the number of new SARS infections, with just seven new cases and two deaths reported Saturday, have raised hopes the outbreak has stabilized, prompting officials to begin urging the WHO to lift its warning. *AFP*

종합주가지수 619.11
전일대비 1.03
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SOUTH Koreans walk past a stock index board in downtown Seoul. South Korean share prices edged up 0.16 percent as late program buying offset foreign and retail profit taking. The composite index closed up 1.03 points at 619.11.

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Enron to form new company

HOUSTON—Bankrupt Enron Corp. on Friday said it would go ahead with a plan to bundle its international assets into a company whose shares would be distributed to creditors who are owed billions.

The proposed company, temporarily dubbed InternationalCo, would be formed from Enron's ownership or interest in 19 separate natural gas and electric utilities and pipelines. Most are located in the Caribbean and Latin America.

The former energy giant, felled by an unprecedented financial scandal in 2001, is already undertaking a similar plan for its three domestic pipelines, forming an entity called PipeCo. It announced that plan in March, and at the time said it would do the same with its international interests.

The new companies would have independent board of directors and be protected from liabilities associated with the bankruptcy, Enron said.

In both cases, Enron decided to form smaller companies after putting the individual assets out for bid. Enron determined they were worth more together than sold piecemeal in a market awash in power and gas assets for sale on the cheap.

Interim Enron chief executive Stephen Cooper has always maintained that the Houston company's best assets would recover more money for creditors when packaged together.

The only major difference between InternationalCo and PipeCo is when creditors would begin receiving their shares of the new companies, an Enron spokesman said.

PipeCo will be formed before Enron's reorganization plan is confirmed by the US Bankruptcy Court in New York, and its shares distributed then, Enron spokesman John Ambler said.

Enron would initially own InternationalCo and distribute the shares to creditors after its bankruptcy plan is approved.

"We expect InternationalCo to be established with the confirmation of the plan to ensure the operations are available and we have cleared up any of the issues associated with those businesses," Ambler said. *Reuters*

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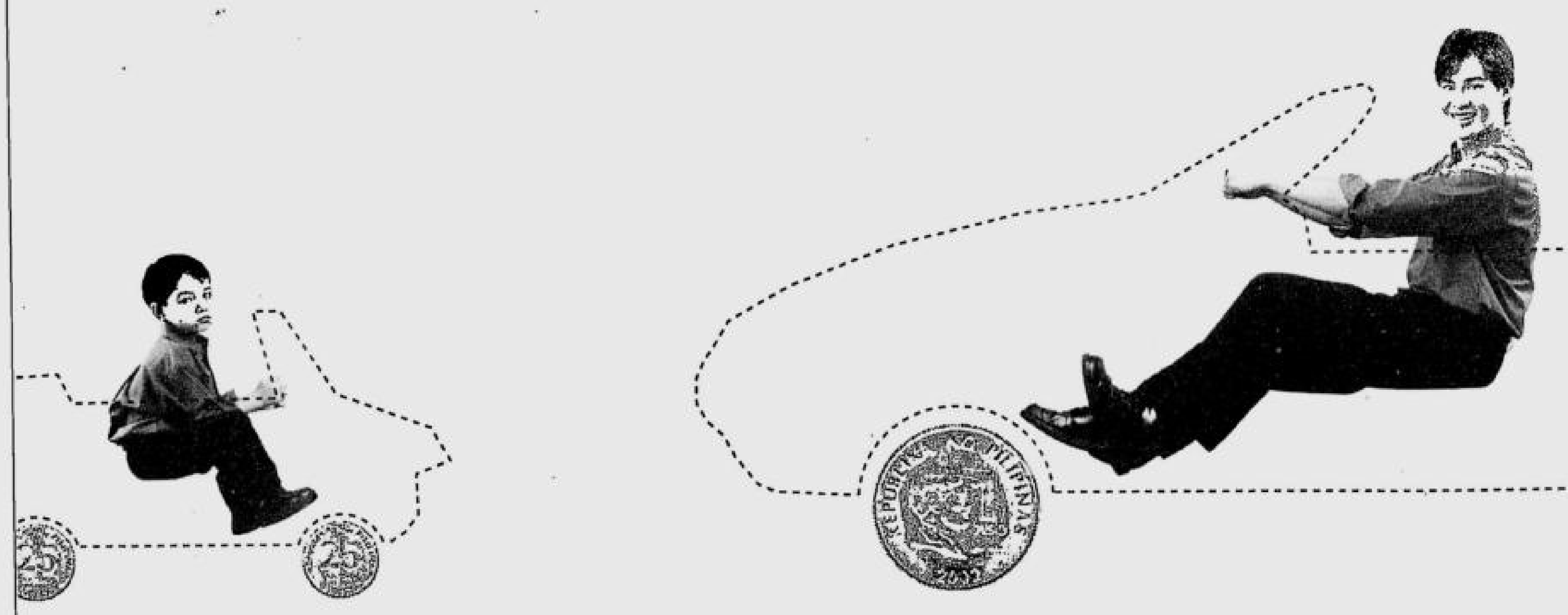
mag - ÀMAbank ka na.



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PESSIMISTIC MOOD

Blue Chip economists trim US growth forecast

WASHINGTON—Private economists trimmed their forecasts for US economic growth still further and now regard even the second half of 2003 with pessimism after a slew of data showed the US economy still struggling to recover.

The closely watched Blue Chip Economic Indicators newsletter said its panel cut growth forecasts for each of the next three quarters, extending the steady erosion in the survey's outlook that began last summer.

Gloomier still, nearly two-thirds of the more than 50 business economists on the panel said risks to their forecasts for growth in the second half of the year were on the downside.

"In large part, our panel members grew a bit more pessimistic over the past month because most of the latest economic releases and private sector survey results signaled that recent economic activity remained quite subdued," said the May edition of the newsletter.

Blue Chip said its panel forecast a second-quarter growth rate of 2.1 percent, down 0.1 percentage point from the 2.2 percent projection offered in April.

Forecasts for the third and fourth quarters of the year were also trimmed by 0.1 percentage point, to 3.5 percent and 3.7 percent, respectively.

"The paring of consensus estimates of GDP growth over the remainder of this year reflects diminished expectations of growth in personal consumption expenditures, business inventories, capital spending and industrial production," Blue Chip said in a summary of its latest survey.

Its May forecast pegged 2003 gross domestic product growth at 2.3 percent, down from 2.4 percent projected in April and the 2.4 percent growth achieved last year. This was the fourth month in a row the panel has cut the annual forecast.

Disappointing employment and manufacturing data in April show the economy likely began the second quarter on a sluggish note, following a weaker-than-expected initial estimate of first-quarter GDP growth of just 1.6 percent, Blue Chip said.

While most analysts still expect the quick, decisive military victory by the United States in Iraq will produce a rebound in the pace of consumer spending and business investment, the panel was scaling back just how soon and by how much the pace of overall growth is likely to accelerate.

"Business inventories are not expected to grow as fast as originally thought due to lingering cautiousness on the part of businesses about the likely strength of aggregate demand going forward," it said.

The US economy lost 48,000 jobs in April, notching the third consecutive monthly decline after a 124,000 reduction in March and 353,000 loss in February.

"Indeed, payrolls have dropped in six of the last eight months," Blue Chip said, adding the plunge in weekly hours worked to a cyclical low of 34.0 a week was "particularly discouraging."

While the return of mortgage rates to their recent lows likely signals housing demand will remain reasonably strong for a while longer, cool weather and a very modest improvement in vehicle sales will likely leave April retail sales little changed from March, the private survey said. *Reuters*

Wall St. in cautious mood, seeks signs

NEW YORK—Stock investors will be taking the US economy's pulse this week, searching for signs of a return to health and pondering prospects for corporate profits in the quarters ahead.

As the flood of corporate earnings reports slows to a trickle, Wall Street will find itself pelted by a barrage of economic data, including reports on retail sales, industrial production and inflation at the producer and consumer levels.

After a better-than-expected batch of first-quarter earnings, investors are now demanding proof that the economy is stabilizing, said John Forelli of Independence Investments LLC.

With the Standard & Poor's 500 index up 16.6 percent from its 2003 trough hit in mid-March, investors are cautious.

"The equity market has obviously had a great run-up. To go further you need to show that the economy is coming out of its funk," said Jon Brorson, managing director at Neuberger Berman.

"You can talk all you want about more cuts ... but big deal." In coming weeks, the S&P 500 is likely to retest its 200-day moving average around 880, Brorson added.

So far this year, the S&P 500 is up close to 6 percent, the Dow Jones Industrial Average is up 3 percent, and the Nasdaq Composite Index is up 14 percent.

Most S&P 500 companies have beaten earnings estimates for the first quarter, raising hopes corporate profits are on the mend.

Now investors are hanging on every word corporate America offers on its forecasts for earnings and sales.

Quarterly scorecards from retail heavyweights Wal-Mart Stores Inc., Target Corp. and J.C. Penney Co. Inc. will grab the spotlight this week, particularly after they and many other marquee names in the sector reported unexpectedly soft April sales.

Also on tap are results from Dell Computer Corp., Computer Associates and Applied Materials Inc., as well as drugmaker Schering-Plough Corp. *Reuters*

US eyes short list of trade partners

WASHINGTON—US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick recently identified countries in Asia and the Middle East that could be candidates for future free-trade negotiations with the United States.

As the world's largest economy, the United States has attracted a long list of countries hoping to spur their own economic development through a free trade pact.

That has fit in well with the Bush administration's strategy of "competitive liberalization," which calls for a number of simultaneous negotiations rather than banking on the outcome of just one or two sets of talks.

In a discussion on free trade agreements at the Institute for International Economics, Zoellick said a long list of factors—including foreign policy and security concerns—determined which countries could become free trade partners.

"This isn't an entitlement program. A free trade agreement with the United States is something that should be a mutual interest, but it also has to be earned," he said.

Following last week's signing of a free trade pact with Singapore, the United States was interested in negotiations with other countries in Southeast Asia, Zoellick told the group.

At the top of the list of potential candidates in the region were Thailand, Indonesia and the Philippines, which already have Trade and Investment Framework Agreements—also known as Tifas—with the United States, Zoellick said.

In the Middle East, the United States has made good progress on trade liberalization issues with Bahrain and Egypt.

"Those in my view are serious candidates" for free trade talks, Zoellick said.

The Bush administration is also considering a regional trade initiative for the Middle East and Gulf region, he said.

Zoellick said Sri Lanka also showed potential as a free trade partner, and added that President George W. Bush has asked him to explore the possibility of negotiations with Colombia.

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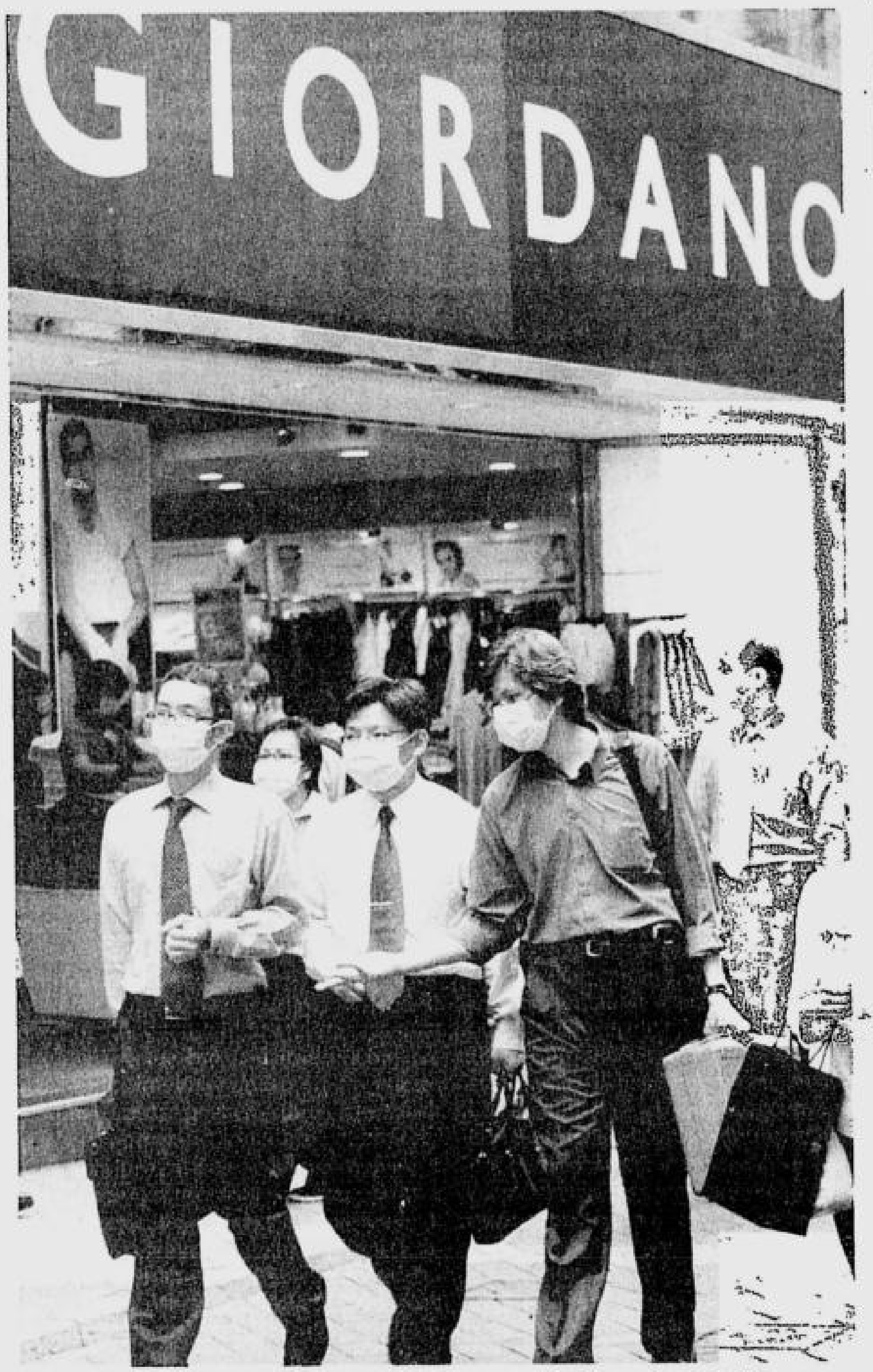

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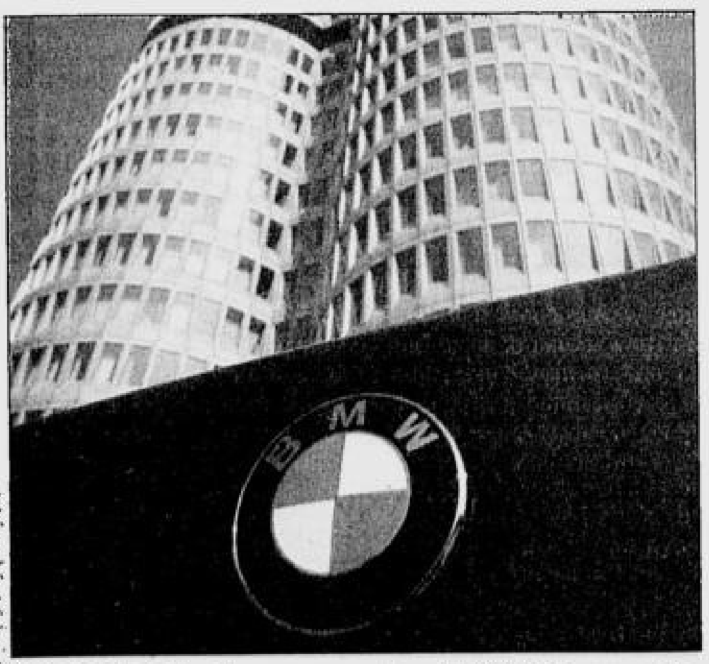

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ILO spotlights new, more subtle forms of discrimination in global workplace

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Although some progress has been made in fighting discrimination, with formal condemnation practically universal today, it has been uneven, the report said.

"The report gives a mixed picture of concern and hope at the same time," ILO expert Manuela Tomei told reporters.

"The most striking finding is that discrimination at work is universal, is stubborn and is changing faces," she added.

Women are by far the largest group facing discrimination at work.

As well as the so-called glass ceiling which keeps women out of many top jobs, they face the problem of a "pay gap" with their male colleagues, which, according to the ILO, is "still significant" in most countries.

"Since the 1970s, the wage gap has been closing in OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) countries, although at a slow pace," the report noted.

Over the last 15 years, the difference between men's and women's pay has fallen the most in the United States and in France.

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The proportion of women in "new" occupations related to information and communication technologies dropped in several countries in the 1990s, the report noted.

However, the share of women in these jobs, once hailed as a window for equal opportunity and treatment, varies widely across countries, it added.

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Other forms of unfair treatment included demotion, denial of health insurance benefits, salary cuts and harassment, it said. *AFP*

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PESSIMISTIC MOOD

Blue Chip economists trim US growth forecast

WASHINGTON—Private economists trimmed their forecasts for US economic growth still further and now regard even the second half of 2003 with pessimism after a slew of data showed the US economy still struggling to recover.

The closely watched Blue Chip Economic Indicators newsletter said its panel cut growth forecasts for each of the next three quarters, extending the steady erosion in the survey's outlook that began last summer.

Gloomier still, nearly two-thirds of the more than 50 business economists on the panel said risks to their forecasts for growth in the second half of the year were on the downside.

"In large part, our panel members grew a bit more pessimistic over the past month because most of the latest economic releases and private sector survey results signaled that recent economic activity remained quite subdued," said the May edition of the newsletter.

Blue Chip said its panel forecast a second-quarter growth rate of 2.1 percent, down 0.1 percentage point from the 2.2 percent projection offered in April.

Forecasts for the third and fourth quarters of the year were also trimmed by 0.1 percentage point, to 3.5 percent and 3.7 percent, respectively.

"The paring of consensus estimates of GDP growth over the remainder of this year reflects diminished expectations of growth in personal consumption expenditures, business inventories, capital spending and industrial production," Blue Chip said in a summary of its latest survey.

Its May forecast pegged 2003 gross domestic product growth at 2.3 percent, down from 2.4 percent projected in April and the 2.4 percent growth achieved last year. This was the fourth month in a row the panel has cut the annual forecast.

Disappointing employment and manufacturing data in April show the economy likely began the second quarter on a sluggish note, following a weaker-than-expected initial estimate of first-quarter GDP growth of just 1.6 percent, Blue Chip said.

While most analysts still expect the quick, decisive military victory by the United States in Iraq will produce a rebound in the pace of consumer spending and business investment, the panel was scaling back just how soon and by how much the pace of overall growth is likely to accelerate.

"Business inventories are not expected to grow as fast as originally thought due to lingering cautiousness on the part of businesses about the likely strength of aggregate demand going forward," it said.

The US economy lost 48,000 jobs in April, notching the third consecutive monthly decline after a 124,000 reduction in March and 353,000 loss in February.

"Indeed, payrolls have dropped in six of the last eight months," Blue Chip said, adding the plunge in weekly hours worked to a cyclical low of 34.0 a week was "particularly discouraging."

While the return of mortgage rates to their recent lows likely signals housing demand will remain reasonably strong for a while longer, cool weather and a very modest improvement in vehicle sales will likely leave April retail sales little changed from March, the private survey said. *Reuters*

Wall St. in cautious mood, seeks signs

NEW YORK—Stock investors will be taking the US economy's pulse this week, searching for signs of a return to health and pondering prospects for corporate profits in the quarters ahead.

As the flood of corporate earnings reports slows to a trickle, Wall Street will find itself pelted by a barrage of economic data, including reports on retail sales, industrial production and inflation at the producer and consumer levels.

After a better-than-expected batch of first-quarter earnings, investors are now demanding proof that the economy is stabilizing, said John Forelli of Independence Investments LLC.

With the Standard & Poor's 500 index up 16.6 percent from its 2003 trough hit in mid-March, investors are cautious.

"The equity market has obviously had a great run-up. To go further you need to show that the economy is coming out of its funk," said Jon Brorson, managing director at Neuberger Berman.

"You can talk all you want about more cuts ... but big deal." In coming weeks, the S&P 500 is likely to retest its 200-day moving average around 880, Brorson added.

So far this year, the S&P 500 is up close to 6 percent, the Dow Jones Industrial Average is up 3 percent, and the Nasdaq Composite Index is up 14 percent.

Most S&P 500 companies have beaten earnings estimates for the first quarter, raising hopes corporate profits are on the mend.

Now investors are hanging on every word corporate America offers on its forecasts for earnings and sales.

Quarterly scorecards from retail heavyweights Wal-Mart Stores Inc., Target Corp. and J.C. Penney Co. Inc. will grab the spotlight this week, particularly after they and many other marquee names in the sector reported unexpectedly soft April sales.

Also on tap are results from Dell Computer Corp., Computer Associates and Applied Materials Inc., as well as drugmaker Schering-Plough Corp. *Reuters*

US eyes short list of trade partners

WASHINGTON—US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick recently identified countries in Asia and the Middle East that could be candidates for future free-trade negotiations with the United States.

As the world's largest economy, the United States has attracted a long list of countries hoping to spur their own economic development through a free trade pact.

That has fit in well with the Bush administration's strategy of "competitive liberalization," which calls for a number of simultaneous negotiations rather than banking on the outcome of just one or two sets of talks.

In a discussion on free trade agreements at the Institute for International Economics, Zoellick said a long list of factors—including foreign policy and security concerns—determined which countries could become free trade partners.

"This isn't an entitlement program. A free trade agreement with the United States is something that should be a mutual interest, but it also has to be earned," he said.

Following last week's signing of a free trade pact with Singapore, the United States was interested in negotiations with other countries in Southeast Asia, Zoellick told the group.

At the top of the list of potential candidates in the region were Thailand, Indonesia and the Philippines, which already have Trade and Investment Framework Agreements—also known as Tifas—with the United States, Zoellick said.

In the Middle East, the United States has made good progress on trade liberalization issues with Bahrain and Egypt.

"Those in my view are serious candidates" for free trade talks, Zoellick said.

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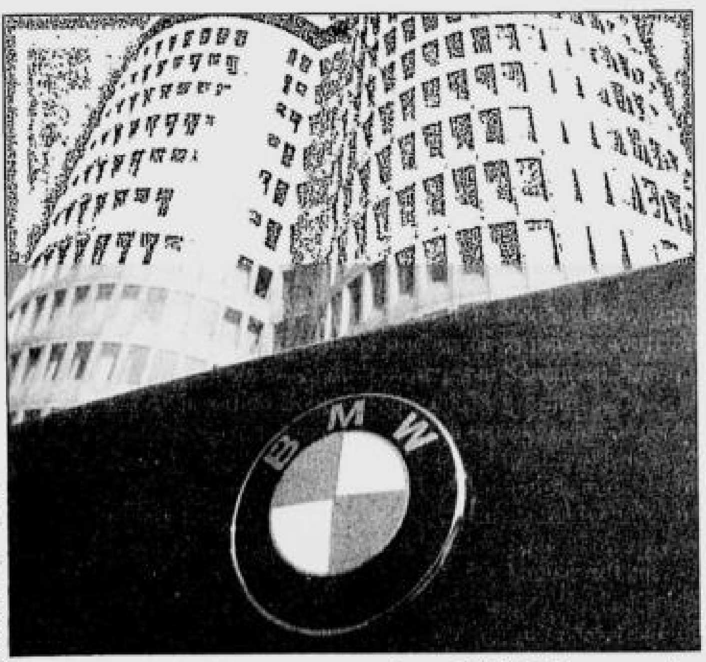

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Euro may derail profit recovery, analysts say

LONDON—Corporate Europe's hopes of delivering a long-awaited recovery in profits this year could be dashed by the rampant euro, despite investor optimism fueled by US earnings growth, experts say.

"Growth of close to zero is now possible in 2003" for European firms, said Alex Irons, European equities strategist at UBS Warburg.

The fashionable view among investors in recent weeks is that Corporate America had set an encouraging precedent for companies on this side of the Atlantic.

US companies lifted their profits by 13 percent in the first quarter, beating expectations of seven percent growth, according to Paris-based JCF, which collates and tracks company earnings forecasts churned out by investment banks and brokers.

The same could not be said of Europe, though, he said.

Chahine says analysts at the end of March expected Europe's 600 biggest companies—those comprising the Stoxx 600 index—to make a total profit of 339 billion euros in 2003.

With no let up in the euro's surge to four-year highs, which is biting ever-deeper into firms' dollar earnings, it could be just a matter of time before investors start to question whether Europe will see any earnings growth in 2003—regardless of what happens in the US.

Teun Draaisma, European equities strategist at Morgan Stanley, is relatively optimistic and expects European companies to raise their profits by around 10 percent this year. *Reuters*

Pooh ruling big setback for Disney

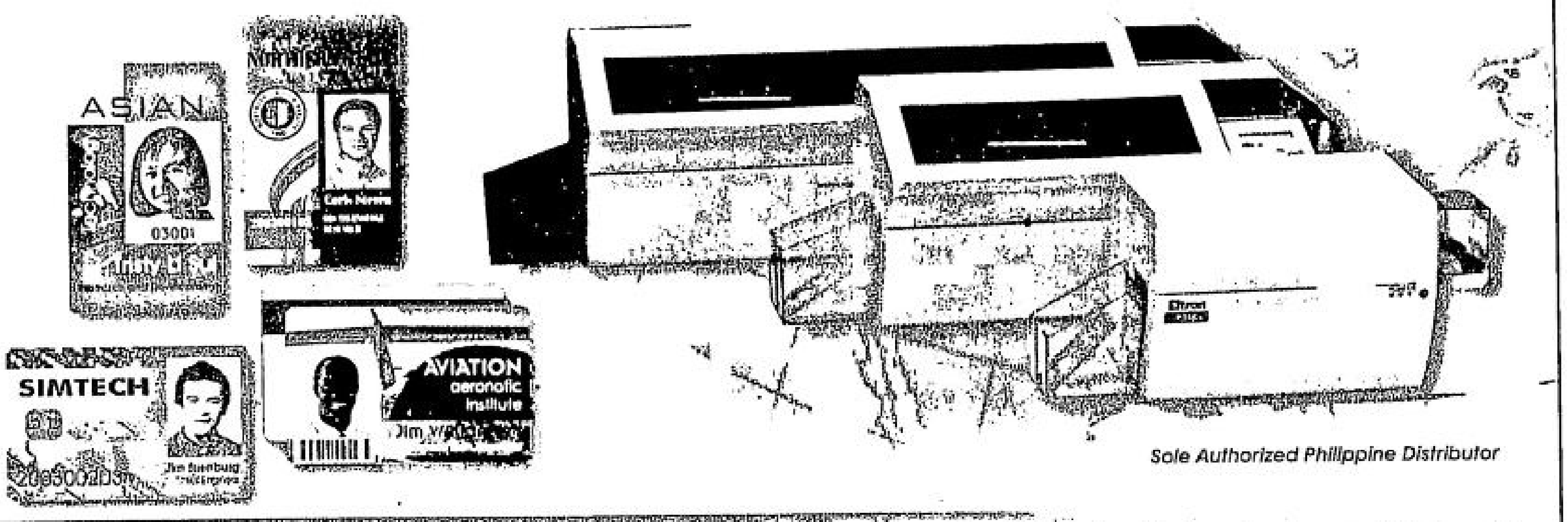
LOS ANGELES—A judge has denied an attempt by the granddaughter of Winnie the Pooh creator A.A. Milne to reclaim the family's copyrights and reassign them to Walt Disney Co.

The ruling is a setback for Disney, which has been fighting a 12-year battle with a company that claims Disney has shortchanged them millions in royalties.

Last November, Clare Milne, who lives in England, notified Disney and Stephen Slesinger Inc., the company that owns the North American merchandising rights, that she intended to reclaim all copyrights. A similar notice was filed by the granddaughter of Pooh illustrator E. H. Shepard.

Milne and Shepard then struck a new deal giving all rights to Disney, beginning in 2004.

But US District Court Judge Florence-Marie Cooper ruled Friday that the provision of US copyright law that Milne relied on does not apply to the case, and that the family's right to reclaim the copyright to four children's books were lost when Milne's son, declined to exercise those rights in the 1980s. *AP*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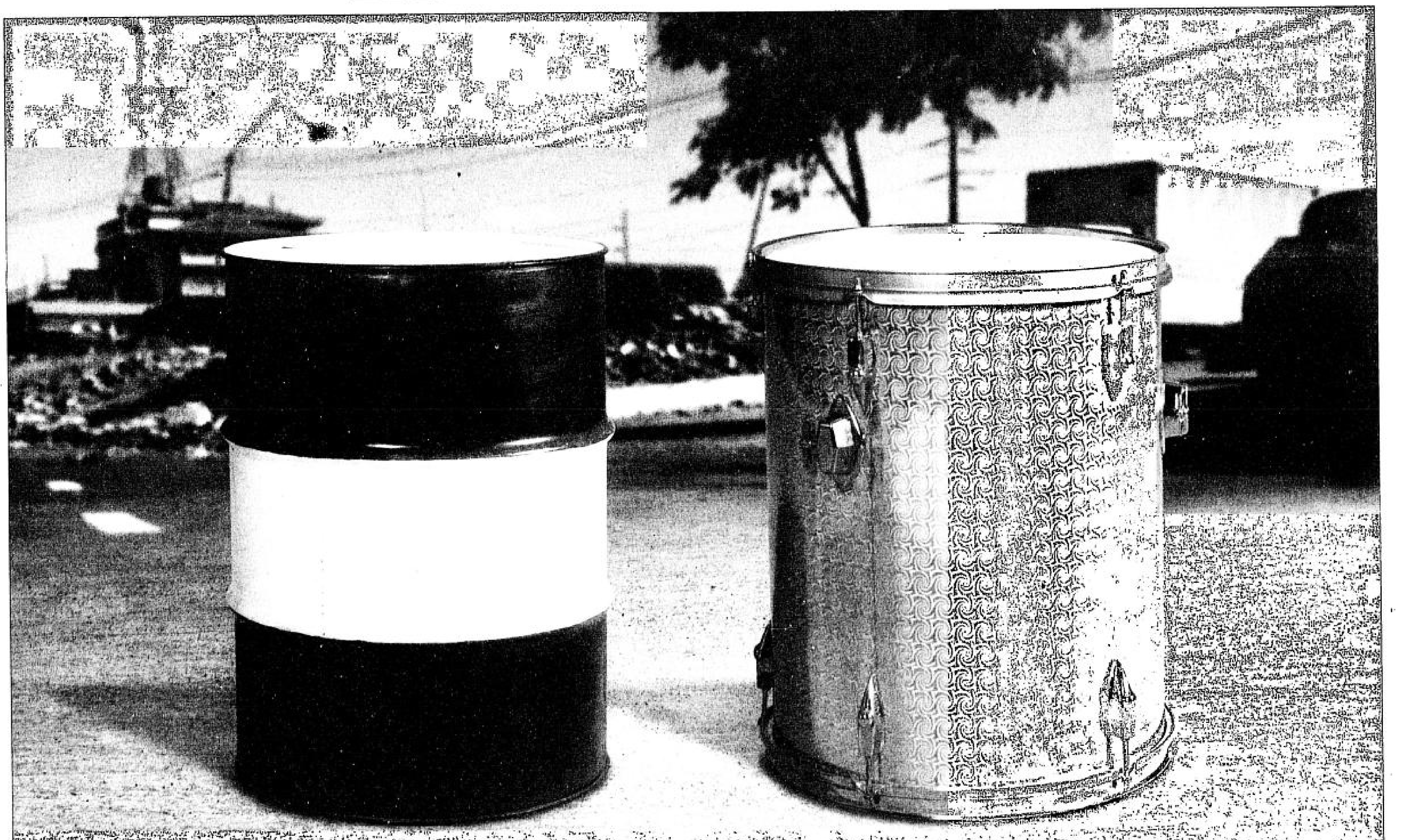
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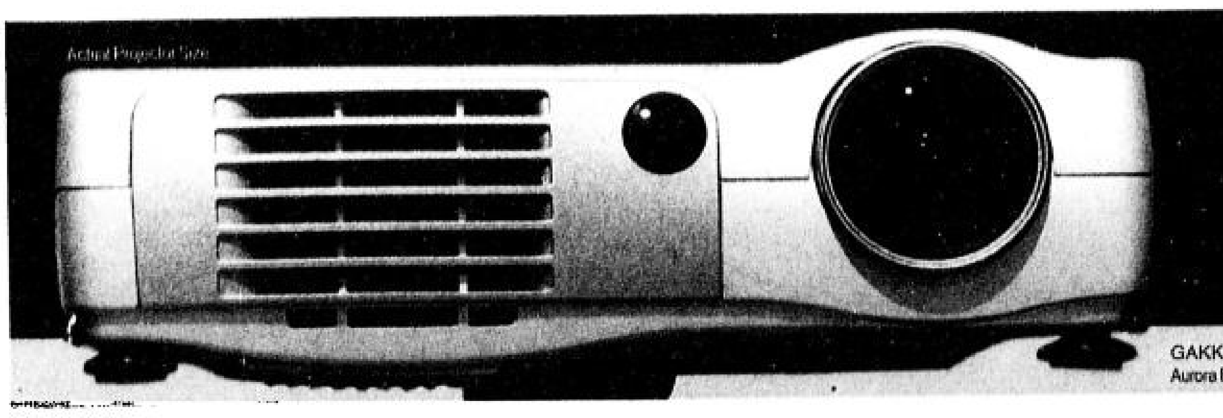
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Editor **Aries Espinosa**

National award in honor of Ninoy Aquino to be launched

THE BENIGNO S. Aquino Jr. Award for Nationalism will be launched in a special gathering on May 15, 4 p.m. at the DLSU-Canlubang Campus in Biñan, Laguna. Former President Corazon C. Aquino will give her remarks in line with the institution of the awards. The award was set up by the Federation of Catholic Schools' Alumni/ae Associations (Fecasaa), which was convened by DLSU president Br. Rolando Dizon, FSC.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo will be the keynote speaker of the event, which will also see the launching of the DLSU tuition bonds and the soft blessing of the new DLSU-Canlubang campus.

The nationalism award aims to promote the spirit of nationalism among the youth and the Filipino people, and to honor the memory of Benigno S. Aquino Jr. as a modern nationalist hero. The search is open to graduating college students and alumni of Fecasaa member schools who have exhibited a strong sense of nationalism.

The criteria for selecting a winner are leadership and / or involvement in organizations or activities that have advanced the cause of human rights, nationalism and social justice, and poverty alleviation; promotion of volunteerism through leadership and /or participation in organizations and activities of social relevance; representation of the country and outstanding performance in international events; and commitment to the pursuit of truth and to the attainment of excellence, and to strong spiritual, moral and ethical values and behavior.

The first award will be given in a special ceremony on Aug. 21, Aquino's death anniversary, and will be bestowed on the same day every year. Nominations should be in on or before July 31.

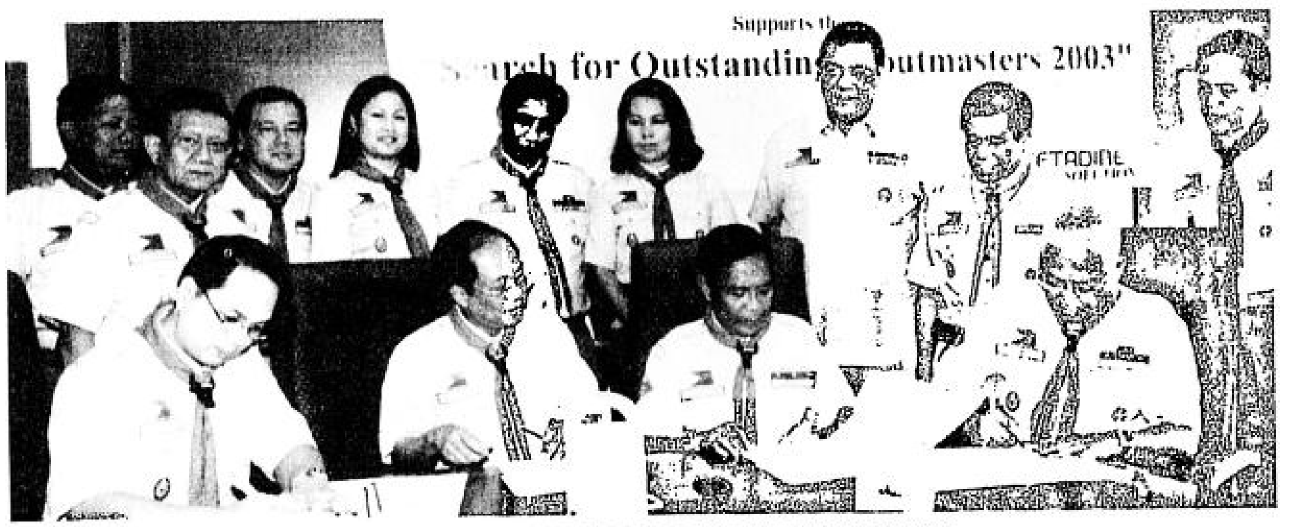
The Fecasaa has member schools all over the country, including De La Salle University-Manila, Assumption College-Makati, San Beda College, Saint Paul's College-QC, Saint Scholastica's College-Manila, Don Bosco Technical College, Holy Name University (Tagbilaran City), Notre Dame University (Cotabato City), University of San Agustin (Iloilo City), University of San Jose-Recoletos (Cebu City), Ateneo de Manila University, and Saint Theresa's College-QC / Manila. Dizon of DLSU is the current chair of Fecasaa.

BENIGNO 'Ninoy' Aquino Jr.

Providing solutions for the global nursing crisis, profitable

GSA SENDS 7 FILIPINO NURSES AS SCHOLARS TO TEXAS

Global Scholarship Alliance (GSA) with offices in Manila and Minesota, USA, has sent 7 Filipino nurses to San Antonio, Texas last March 21. They are recipients of the GSA Scholarship Program called 'Sr. Remy Junio Scholarship'. As Sr. Remy Junio Scholars, they will study Masters Degree in Nursing, at the University of the Incarnate Word (UIW) and will get the academic training at Methodist Healthcare System, an academic affiliate of UIW. GSA believes that the availability of an ongoing and increasing supply of nursing instructors is the only way to combat and reverse the current global nursing shortage. GSA takes the distinctive position that a well-managed nursing crisis can represent the 'Golden Age of Nursing'. In photo are the GSA scholars (standing from left) Innocentes Figueroa III, Peter Elmer Bondad, Joseph Ebrada and Vina Grace Caliwanagan. (Sitting from left) Arlene Sirios, Mary Claire Denampo and Julie Anne Badilla.


Supports the "Search for Outstanding Scoutmasters 2003"

PLI SUPPORTS SEARCH FOR OUTSTANDING SCOUTMASTERS 2003

The scoutmaster or unit leader is the most important adult in the entire Boy Scouts of the Philippines. He has the skills of transferring his own aptitude, knowledge and understanding to pursue the mission of developing young Filipinos into outstanding citizens. Seated from left are: Jose Augusto G. Pascual, division head of PLI-Consumer Healthcare; Manuel J. Salazar, president and COO of Pascual Laboratories Inc; Makati City Mayor Jejomar C. Binay, national president of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines Inc.; and Cagayan Gov. J. Miguel de Jesus, chair of BSP's 'Tribute to Scoutmasters 2003' awards committee. Also in photo (standing from left to right) are the BSP board members Efren Edgar P. Dieta; Maximino J. Edralin Jr.; Henry C. Dy; Princess P. Fernando (product manager, PLI Consumer Healthcare); Makati City Vice Mayor Ernesto S. Mercado; Marie Claire N. Carlos (Marketing Manager, PLI Consumer Healthcare); SVP Francisco Anlag; Ireneo C. Aquino; and J. Rizal C. Pangilinan, BSP secretary general.

PAA holds first quarter assembly

THE PHILIPPINE Automotive Association (PAA) an association of dealers, manufacturers, importers, assemblers, banks, finance insurance companies in the automotive industry, held its first quarter assembly last March 20 at the Manila Golf and Country Club.

The guest speakers in the said event were Gen. Roberto T. Lastimoso, LTO assistant secretary and Gen. Nestorio Gualberto who discussed the Land Transportation Office Information Technology (LTO-IT Project), which includes the Office's automation of operations, nationwide interconnection and customer service in 30 minutes through the website, www.lto.gov.ph.

Mr. Benjie Guerrero, PAA managing officer, recounted the inception of the association 1951 by group of vehicle dealers; the ongoing projects like the pending issues with the importation of second hand vehicles; completed projects like the Quezon City tax issue and future projects like membership meetings in North and South Luzon, Cebu and Davao, fund raising projects that will assist the officers in their plans, auto shows and the association's website, www.philippineautomotive.com.

Also part of the program was the awarding of the certificate of appreciation to Paul N. Ching who led the PAA to a smoother ride during his presidency in 1999 to 2002, and to William T. Lee for his performance in the fight against the tax increase issue in Quezon City last February to December 2002.

One of the highlights of the said event was the open forum powered by PAA's vice president Leo J. Ferreria as the guest speakers Gen. Lastimoso and Gen. Gualberto shed light on the issues raised by the guests, which include the issuance of confirmation certificate, renewal of conduction permit, issuance and control of car stickers and the inefficiency of traffic enforces.

PAA president George F. Blaylock delivered the closing remarks and expressed his gratitude to all the people involved in the accomplishment of various projects, most especially the resolution of the Quezon City tax issue. Blaylock concluded the event, stressing to the members to support the board and lift the association and the automotive industry to a higher level.

The Philippine Automotive Association is composed of 36 regular members in Metro Manila, 13 in the provinces, 14 associate members and seven satellite members.

This year's driven board of directors and officers include George F. Blaylock, president; Leo J. Ferreria, vice president; Michael N. Cheng, secretary; Amado San Juan, treasurer; Paul N. Ching, Kurt S. Bachmann Jr., Ramon T. Goh, directors; and Benjie A. Guerrero, managing officer.

The quarterly event is geared to pass on to the members and guests the current developments in the organization, and serves as a venue to answer the concerns being faced by the players in the industry.

PROMAP INDUCTS 2003 OFFICERS

Production Management Association of the Phils. (Promap), the premiere organization of production practitioners in the country, held its induction ceremonies for its new set of board of directors last March 7, at The Palms Country Club in Alabang. Mr Dave Yanov, managing director of Respironics Asic Pacific, led the induction rites on the 2003 board of directors. In photo are Mr Dave Yanov (5th from left), from left most side: Mr Romy Sangalang - 2002 president; Mr Gary Mendoza - 2003 president; Mr Tony Jopson - internal VP; Mr Robbie Fabian - executive VP; Mr Emil Virtudes - secretary; Mr Nap Dagdagan - PRO; Mr Mon Salazar - director; Mr Joey Marquez - director and Mr Jovy Jader - external VP.

SSHG WINS IFLR 'NATIONAL LAW FIRM 2002' AWARD

The country's leading law firm, SyCip Salazar Hernandez and Gatmaitan (SSHG), was presented with the "National Law Firm of the Year 2002" Award by the International Financial Law Review (IFLR) in formal rites held at the Ritz Carlton Hotel in Hong Kong last Feb. 27. The IFLR awards seek to recognize innovation, quality, diversity, difficulty and commitment to the development of legal services in Asia. In photo are (from left): Cirilio Tolosa, Loudette Tapia-Tolosa, Lea Soriano, Marilyn Aquino, Lilia B. Yang, Luisito Liban and Llewellyn Llanillo of SSHG.

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CDO DISTRIBUTORS' CONFAB

CDO-Foodsphere Inc. recently held its annual conference for its Visayas and Mindanao-based grocery product distributors at the Tambuli Beach Resort in Mactan Island, Cebu. Above photograph shows the delegates composed of CDO sales managers and business partners after mopping out strategic plans aimed at bolstering the company's business performance.

Clips

MTV's 14 finalists

FROM over thousands of aspirants, it is now down to the final 14. MTV Philippines has announced the 14 finalists of the nationwide search for the next generation icon, the MTV VJ Hunt 2003, which will culminate in the grand finals night on May 16 in Intramuros. Getting their ultimate shot at MTV fame are finalists Patricia Benedicto, Reema Chanco, Kym de Guzman, Patty Laurel, Alia Nahas, Aliya Parcs, Toni Taus, boys Kelly Davis, Johann Ekedum, Greg Martin, Edward Mendez, Jeff Rodriguez, Chase Tinio, and Nino Tupas. The 2003 MTV VJ Hunt is presented by Gatsby, Samsung Digitall, STI, and also by Bambini Cologne and Smart Communications, and in part by John Robert Powers, Lux Super Rich Shampoo, Philippine Airlines, Piandre, Loreal Paris, SM Supermalls, 89.9 WTM, Joey 92.3, Klite 103.5, 939 I-fm, RX 93.1, Charlie @ 101.9, DOT and U by Rustans.

Comic Divas at The Venue

ENERGIZE your date, friends and family with the coming of Comic Divas at The Venue-Davao City. On May 16 and 17, Russel, Angel and AJ, popularly known in Manila as the Comic Divas, will entertain habitués of The Venue, Davao's best and biggest entertainment hub with Sing-Galing Master Ethel Booba as special guest. Co-sponsored by Linmarr Suites Appartelle, expect The Comic Divas sending hilarious performances to put Davaoenos in high spirits. Tickets are P150 each, with free one standard drink. Shows start at 9 pm.

PSGP meet at St. Luke's

THE PARKINSON'S Support Group of the Philippines Foundation (PSGP) will hold a meeting on May 25, Sunday, at 12:30 p.m. at the 14th floor of the Auditorium of the Cathedral Heights Building (South Tower), St. Luke's Medical Center, E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue. The meeting features a lecture by Dr. Virgilio Gerald H. Evidente, medical adviser of the PSGP. The meeting is free of charge sponsored by Servier Philippines. The latest developments and updates on Parkinson's Disease, parkisonism and dystonia will be taken up in the meeting. Interested parties can call the Movement Disorders Center at 727-5552 or 723-0301 local 3101. E-mail Evidente at yghe@cox.net.

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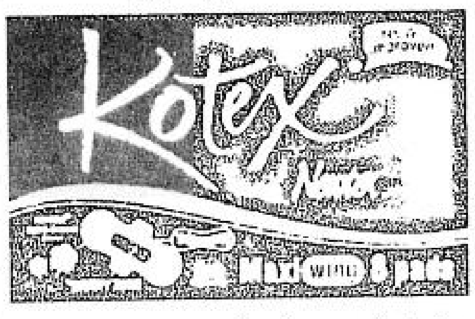

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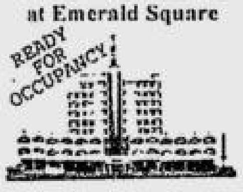

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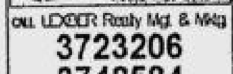

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Rommel Go Fuentes was extrajudicially settled by his heirs per Doc. #9089, Page #62, Book #35, Series of 2003 of Notary Public Danilo B. Banares of Makati City (PDI-April 28, May 5, 12, 2003)

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NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Regional Office XIV
Cotabato City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PROCUREMENT OF SECURITY SERVICES FOR NFA REGION XIV

The National Food Authority (NFA) invites all interested **Private Security Agencies (PSA's)** to participate in the bidding for security services in NFA Region XIV.

Interested bidders may secure the Eligibility Requirements from the Secretariat, Bids and Awards Committee for Security Services (BAC-SS), after payment of non-transferable, non-refundable fee in the amount of Five Thousand Pesos (Php5,000.00) from **June 16-30, 2003.** The Application for eligibility and required documents thereof, duly accomplished in five (5) copies shall be submitted from **July 01-18, 2003.**

All Qualified Applicants shall be invited to participate in the Pre-Bidding Conference and Bidding Proper to be held on **July 31, 2003** and **September 01, 2003**, respectively, at the NFA Regional Office XIV, Conference Room, ARMM Complex, Cotabato City.

For any inquiry, please call telephone number **(064) 421-2407** and **Telefax (064) 421-2128.**

The NFA reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, to waive any formality, technicality or defect therein and may accept the bid which is deemed most advantageous to the Government. The NFA neither assumes any obligation for any loss whatsoever that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of their respective bids, nor does the NFA guarantees that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **DIMNATANG R. UMPA**
Regional Director
NFA – RO – XIV

(PDI–May 12, 19 & 26, 2003)

The University of LA SALETTE
COLLEGE OF LAW of Santiago City
will hold a lecture on Remedial Law
to be conducted by

ATTY. ABRAHAM ESPEJO

Dean, Institute of Law
San Sebastian College,
C.M. Recto, Manila
on May 17 and 18, 2003
at the University of La Salette, AV Room

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On View: Friday 16th May 2003 from 9:00am to 2:00pm
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Province of Eastern Samar
MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT OF CAN-AVID
Telefax No. (055) 564-6504 or (055) 330-1528

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL MAYOR

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

Date : April 28, 2003
Contract No. SP-041-IN-01
World Bank Loan No. 4446PH

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development towards the cost of Local Government Finance Development and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the Contract for the **Construction of Public Market with River Landing.** Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the *Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits.*
2. **The Municipality of Can-avid, Eastern Samar invites sealed bids from eligible sources for the Construction of Five (5) Units concrete public market building to wit;**

Building I & II (One storey)	– 144 sq.m. each with a total of 16 stalls
Building III (One storey)	– 210 sq.m. with 28 stalls
Building IV & V (One storey)	– 126 sq.m. each with a total of 14 stalls
Elevated Water Tank	– 23,000 liters capacity
One (1) Unit Concrete Public Toilet	– 25.6 sq.m.
Perimeter Fence	– 48 spans
Concrete Drainage System	
Electrical-Single phase line 2W secondary and street lighting	

3. **Bidding documents may be purchased starting April 29 - May 28, 2003 at the Municipal Treasurer's Office, Can-avid, Eastern Samar upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Three Thousand Five Hundred (3,500.00) Pesos** or its equivalent in a freely-convertible currency for each set. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.
4. Bids shall be valid for a period of **Ninety (90) days** after bid opening and must be accompanied by security of **Three Hundred Thousand (300,000.00) Pesos** in a form of cash, certified check, bank guarantee or its equivalent in a convertible currency. and shall be delivered to **the Office of the Municipal Mayor, 2nd Floor, Municipal Building, Can-avid, Eastern Samar on or before May 28, 2003 at 10:00 o'clock A.M.** at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.
5. **A pre-bid conference will be held on May 15, 2003 at 10:00 o'clock A.M. at the Sangguniang Bayan Conference Hall, Can-avid, Eastern Samar.**

(Sgd.) **HON. GIL NORMAN P. GERMINO**
Municipal Mayor

(PDI–April 28, May 5 & 12, 2003)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) invites all oil producers/suppliers of petroleum products to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid for the **SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF PETROLEUM, OIL AND LUBRICANTS (POL)** for the AFP with an approved budget of Six Hundred Million Pesos (Php 600,000,000.00) chargeable against the FY 2003 AFP POL Budget.

All interested parties are invited to attend the Pre-Bid Conference that will be held on **May 22, 2003** at 9:00 a.m. at the Daza Park Pavilion, AFP Logistics Center, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

Tender Documents shall be available during office hours starting **May 13, 2003** at the POL BAC Secretariat, AFP Logistics Center, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City upon payment of non-refundable fee of **Twenty Thousand Pesos (Php 20,000.00)**. However, bidders who have secured the Tender Documents are already qualified to join the Pre-Bid Conference.

A Special Power of Attorney, issued by the prospective bidder authorizing its representative to purchase the bid documents in its behalf, shall be required before issuance of the Tender Documents.

The bidders shall submit their duly accomplished eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals in three (3) separate sealed envelopes at the bid box located at the POL BAC Secretariat at Daza Park Pavilion, AFP Logistics Center, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Submission of the envelopes shall be from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. on **June 02, 2003** after which the opening of bids shall immediately follow.

The AFP reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, to waive any formality or technicality, and to award to any bidder whose proposal is deemed most advantageous to the AFP. The AFP likewise assumes no obligation for whatever expenses or losses that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of the bids, nor does it guarantee that the award shall be made.

For more information, please call the POL BAC Secretariat at telephone nos. **913-1175 or 911-6001 loc. 5434**, or visit our website at www.logcen.com.

(Sgd.) **ERNESTO G CAROLINA**
Lieutenant General AFP
Chairman. AFP BAC for POL

(PDI - May 12 & 18, 2003)

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Food Authority (NFA) Region I, through its Bid and Award Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the **Interior Renovation of Staffhouse at Loakan, Baguio City.** Scope of works for the said repair works shall not be limited to the following:

a. Repair works at Ground floor including extension of kitchen,
b. Repair of second floor,
c. Repair of third floor,
d. Repair of common toilet and baths at ground, second and third floors,
e. Provision of steel casement window and flush door,
f. Repair of interior walls and ceiling,
g. Provision of chimney, and
h. Upgrading of electrical system.

SCHEDULE OF PRE-QUALIFICATION AND BIDDING
Issuance of RES Form – May 26-28, 2003 (8:00 AM-5:00 PM)
Submission of Accomplished RES Form – June 4-6, 2003 (8:00 AM-5:00 PM)
Issuance of Bidding Documents to Eligible Contractors – June 11, 2003 (8:00 AM-5:00 PM)
Pre-Bidding Conference – June 18, 2003 (10:00 AM)
Submission and Opening of Bids – June 25, 2003 (10:00 AM)

Approved Budget for the project – **P1,997,769.12**
Contractor's Category **LIMITED TO SMALL "B"** for Building

All particulars relative to Eligibility Screening, Bid Security, Performance Bond, Pre-Bidding and Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification of the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bids, and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of EO 40 and PD 1594 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR), as amended.

Request for Eligibility Screening (RES Form) may be secured and submitted at NFA-RPBAC Secretariat, 2nd Floor, Regional Office, San Juan, La Union upon presentation of Letter of Intent, updated PCAB/IAC License (Original) and payment of non-refundable fee of P500.00.

Plans and Specifications and Bidding documents shall be issued to Eligibile contractors/bidders upon payment of non-refundable fee of P2,000.00.

The NFA reserves the right to reject any or all bids or any part thereof and to accept the offer most advantageous to the Government.

NFA shall in no case be held responsible or liable for any and all costs associated with the bidder's participation in the bidding process regardless of its results.

(Sgd.) **VICTORIANO Q. MOLINA**
Asst. Regional Director & Chairman, NFA-RPBAC

(PDI–May 12 & 23, 2003)

BCDA

BASES CONVERSION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
BCDA Corporate Center, Gozar corner Lucas Sts., Villamor Air Base, Pasay City
Business Development Dept.'s Tel. No. 510-0411; 551-3006 loc. 125/ Fax No. 510-0420

ANNOUNCEMENT

EXTENSION FOR THE ISSUANCE OF TERMS OF REFERENCE ASSET DISPOSITION PROGRAM - PHASE 2

The Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) hereby announces the extension of the issuance of the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the development and privatization of the 25 hectares Lawton Parkway located along west of C-5 Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila until **16 May 2003.** BCDA also announces the deferment of the bidding for the 5 hectares Camp Bago Bantay located at Brgy. Sto. Cristo, Bago-Bantay, Quezon City.

Interested proponents may submit their Letters of Interest to BCDA and can purchase the TOR that outlines, among others, the requirements for proponents until **16 May 2003** at a non-refundable cost of Ten Thousand Pesos (Php 10,000.00) payable to BCDA in Cash or Manager's Check.

Interested proponents can direct their inquiries to Ms. Aileen An. R. Zosa and/or Ms. Bambie L. Andal at telephone numbers 510-0420 or 510-0411, or at arzosa@bcda.gov.ph or blandal@bcda.gov.ph

(Sgd.) **RUFO COLAYCO**
President and Chief Executive Officer

(PDI--May 12, 2003)

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of Dao, Capiz

Peacefully joined his Creator
on May 10, 2003 at the age of 85.

His loving wife **Divina**; children **Noni** & **Jon Arcenas**, **Jean**, **Vip** & **Nonna**, **Edong** & **Osie** and **Pepe**; grandchildren and great grandchildren; brothers **Nelson** and **Pepito**; sister **Lourdes** (†); sisters-in-law **Betty** and **Gloria**; relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Christ the King Church, Greenmeadows, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Friday, May 16, 2003
at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

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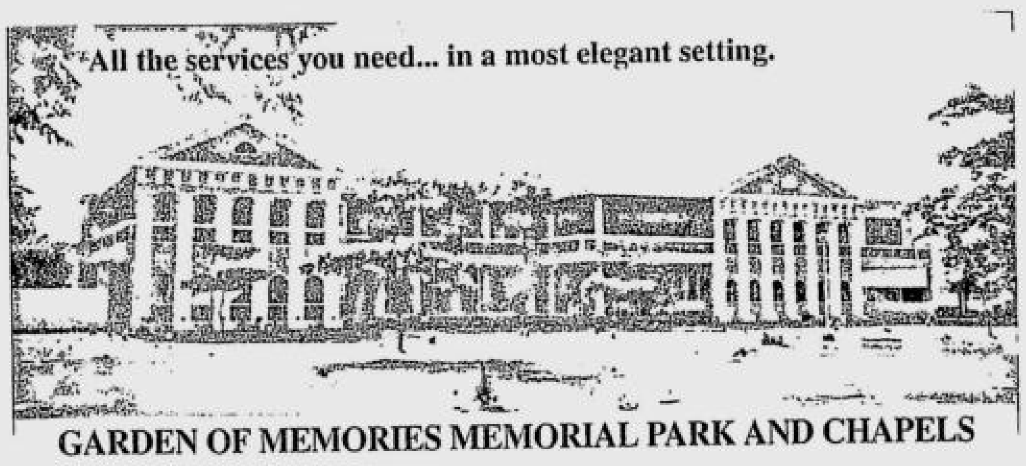

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widow of **Cenon V. Audencial**

Passed away on May 11, 2003
at the age of 84.

Her children
Roberto, Editha, Virgilio, Divina (†), **Emmanuel, Enrico, Jenny, Cenon Jr.**, and **Migs**;

Sons- and daughters-in-law,
Myrna Dean, Oscar S. Reyes, Lily del Rosario, Conrado Ocampo, Jennifer Park, Jimmy Lopez, Delta Alinea and **Alexander Ty**

Her brothers and sisters.
Rosita Cruz vda. de Magpantay, Adoracion and **Sergio Hudencial, Cesar** and **Sixta Cruz** and **Anita Cruz vda. de Benig**,
request the pious readers to pray for her soul's eternal rest.

Her remains now lie in state
at Capilla San Aemiliani, Arlington Garden Chapels,
Raymundo cor. Mercedes Avenues, Pasig City.

Interment will be announced later.

"From darkness let the light shine!" Genesis 1:3

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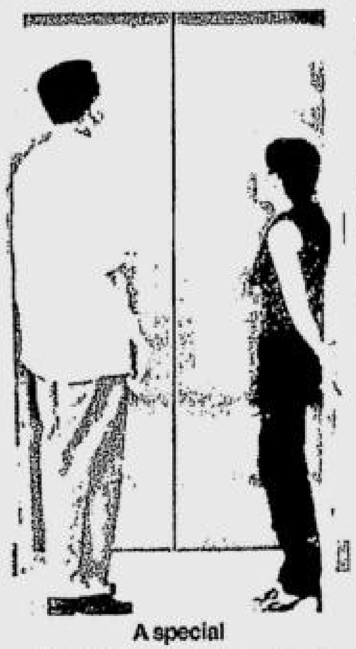
May 28, 2003 (Wednesday)

Keeping High Flyers in the Company
Lecture:
Ms. Thelma Geraldine A. Baricaua,
Sr. Consultant,
Career Systems, Inc.

May 29, 2003 (Thursday)

Developing the Global Pinoy
Lecture:
Mr. Jorge G. Santamaria,
Managing Director,
Career Systems, Inc.



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INFOTECH

Editor **Leo Magno**

Lawmaker hits new Pagcor Internet gambling projects

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

FORMER BASKETBALL superstar and now Sen. Robert Jaworski, criticized a new government plan to set up Internet gambling operations in partnership with the private sector.

Reiterating that Internet gambling would have serious effects on Philippine society, Jaworski said he is opposed to recent plans to set up an online operation where Filipinos can place bets based on the score-ending of a basketball game played by a popular Philippine professional league.

Two years ago, the lawmaker filed a petition with the Supreme Court asking the higher tribunal to stop Internet gambling operated by a local company through a franchise granted by the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor).

In his petition, the lawmaker said that Pagcor was not in a position to grant a franchise to local firm, Sports and Games Entertainment Corp. (Sage), to operate online gambling. It stated that Pagcor had gone beyond the provisions of its charter by granting Sage the franchise.

A former basketball coach, Jaworski asked the Supreme Court to put a stop to Pagcor's plans then to allow local operators like Sage to operate online gambling.

Jaworski said that the Supreme Court has yet to issue its opinion on his petition, thereby allowing Sage to continue operating an online casino.

The lawmaker argued that any new venture by Pagcor that involves Internet gambling should be prohibited because it does not have the charter to grant franchise to local firms to run such operations.

Following the Supreme Court's order to close down jai-alai operations in the country two years ago, Jaworski said that the Supreme Court might also do the same for other gambling franchises including online casino operators.

Jaworski then stressed that only Congress, and not Pagcor can grant "provisional authorities" to online gambling operators.

Pagcor had granted Sage an exclusive license to operate an online casino in the country on Sept. 1, 1998. This exclusive license is good up to 2005.

In a disclosure to the stock exchange, Philweb Corp. said it was investing on an Internet sports betting project with Pagcor. PhilWeb has infused $2 million for the project that will be launched this month, the disclosure said.

A close aide of Jaworski disclosed that the lawmaker plans to revive his opposition to Internet gambling with the recent developments.

IT giants eye RP enterprise

By Joel D. Pinaroc

INFORMATION technology vendors continue to jostle for a bigger share of the Philippine enterprise sector, which is still continuing to invest despite the ongoing global slowdown.

IT giants IBM, Microsoft and SAP also said large companies, while having the financial muscle, to continue to invest in IT either by upgrading their systems or buying all-new solutions, are generally "cautious" in their approach on investing in IT.

While IBM and Microsoft are rivals in the enterprise software segment, SAP is a major player in customer relationship management applications.

"There are challenges and changes that Philippine companies continue to face, be it political, or the economy," said Erik Tabuena, country manager for IBM's consulting group in the Philippines.

The executive noted that enterprises, due to these challenges, are extra cautious and are focusing more on costs and profit.

And while IBM continues to release newer versions of its software and hardware products, the company is urging enterprises to go into business integration and eventually deploy business-on-demand solutions in their operations.

According to Tabuena, during these times of uncertainty where companies are more than ever focusing their attention on costs and profits, the paradigm of integration and business-on-demand becomes more important.

One description of business integration is effective management of IT resources; business-on-demand is the ability to sense and respond to fluctuating business conditions.

Software behemoth Microsoft Corp. on the other hand, is taking a different tack in approaching the enterprise market. As it has always done in the past, the Redmond, Washington-based company is coming up with newer versions of its enterprise products, with the goal of snaring more new users while continuing to service its existing user base.

Microsoft has recently previewed

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RP joins Asia Pacific-wide Internet security network

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

WHILE government is pushing for the establishment of a national computer emergency response team (CERT), the private sector has already made an effort to make the country part of an Asia Pacific-wide network of Internet security response teams.

The Philippine CERT (PH-CERT) is now a member of the Asia Pacific-CERT, according to PH-CERT interim president and founder Albert de la Cruz, reacting to recent news about the national CERT.

De La Cruz said that the AP-CERT was established to encourage and support cooperation between computer security incident response teams in the region.

AP-CERT currently maintains a "trusted contact network of computer security experts" in various countries in the region, including Australia, Vietnam, the People's Republic of China, South Korea, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Taiwan, added De la Cruz.

De la Cruz said that the network is pushing for collaborative research and development on subjects of interest to its members.

The AP-CERT was initiated by Japan, De La Cruz noted.

PH-CERT is a non-profit organization that has members representing Internet security experts and enthusiasts, local companies providing and developing Internet security services, local telecommunication firms, and government representatives from the computer agencies and law enforcement.

Will Filipinos go for MMS?

By Don Heraña

THE MOBILE phone industry, just like the computer industry, has coined several acronyms—some are downright irrelevant for an everyday Joe but most are useful initials that represent new technologies developed over the past few years or so.

Indeed, given all the alphabet soup for arcane terms like SMS, GPRS, WAP, GSM, SIM and CDMA among others, one may lose his or her appetite figuring out what these initials stand for. But sooner or later, people realize that they must live with this industry lingo, especially with the mobile phone becoming an integral part of both the workday and social life.

One of the most intriguing terms today is MMS. MMS stands for "Multimedia Messaging Service." MMS is, in a sense, a multimedia version of short messaging service (SMS), more popularly known as "texting." It brings the hand phone to the next level of mobile communication. In addition to the pure text content familiar with SMS text, MMS messages can contain picture images, text, voice and video recorder clips. The MMS standards support media types such as JPEG, GIF, text, AMR voice—formats you usually see in computer files.

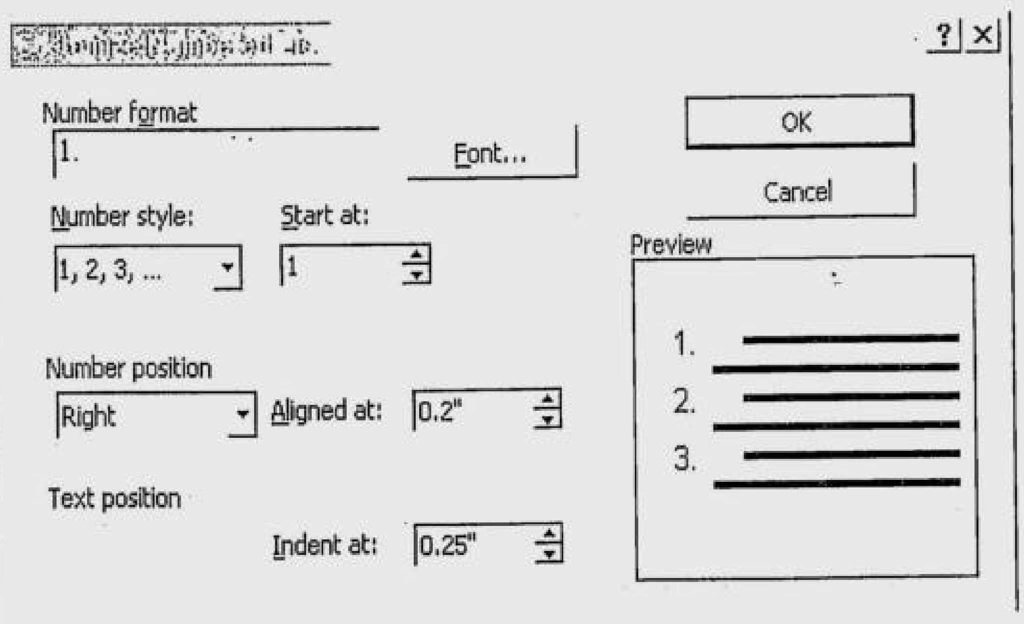
Multimedia Messaging Service is also commonly known as photo or picture messaging. With an MMS-enabled mobile phone, you can take a digital photograph on the spot and then instantly send that full color picture to anyone, at any location, that has an MMS mobile phone or someone that has Internet access. You could also add a text message to your picture. Indeed, the camera's direct incorporation with the mobile phone is an amazing development.

So what are some of the things you can use MMS for?

For one, you could get a second opinion on stuff in the mall (say, a sofa set) you're going to buy from a family or a friend who also has an MMS capable phone. You simply just have to take a picture and send it via MMS and get their response.

For another, you could also send a "wish

WILL FILIPINOS/ B17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Aligning a numbered list in MS Word

HAVE you noticed that once your numbered list in Microsoft Word reaches a double digit number, the numbers will no longer be aligned? Here's a quick way to align them:

1) Open MS Word

2) Create your numbered list

3) Select the list

4) Right click your mouse button and select "Bullets and Numbering" from the shortcut menu

5) In the dialog box, select the "Numbers" tab and then select "Customize"

6) In the "Number position" dropdown list, select "Right" and then click "OK."

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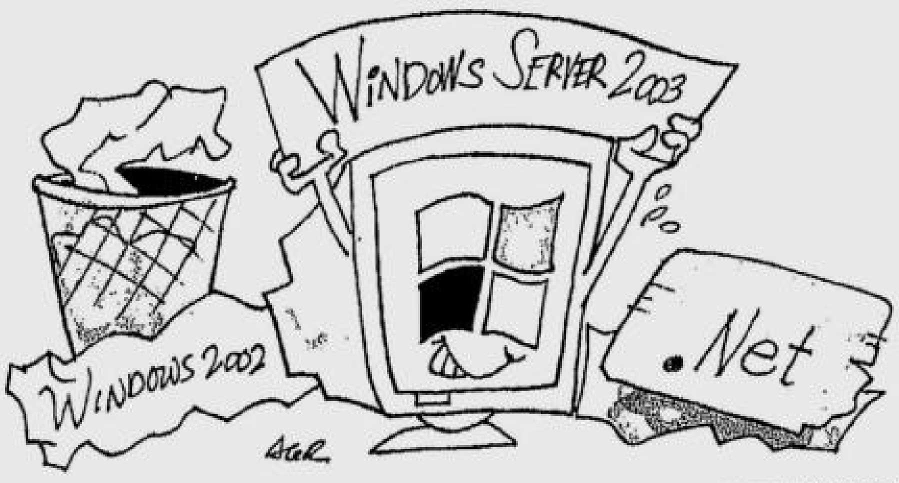

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Is Microsoft dropping .Net?

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

SOFTWARE behemoth Microsoft Corp.'s decision to drop the ".Net" from its rebranded Windows Server 2003 came about with the current confusion about its products, Philippine officials told INQ7.net.

Since 2001, Microsoft's next version of Windows Server had to go through four name changes before it settled with the new name Windows Server 2003. This software product is the successor to Windows 2000 Server (also unofficially known as Windows NT 5.0).

"We named it Windows Server 2003 . . . so as not to confuse our customers," said Abigail Suguitan, product manager for Windows Applications Servers for Microsoft Philippines.

Suguitan said that Microsoft is, however, not dropping ".Net" totally.

"We're just standardizing the way we brand our products," and subsequently end the confusion, added the Microsoft executive.

The .Net initiative was introduced by Microsoft as a marketing strategy after Microsoft chair Bill Gates decided to embrace the Internet. It was a concept, and not an actual software product, which states that Microsoft software would be available to customers anytime, anywhere and on any device.

Toward that strategy, Microsoft also embraced two technologies: Extensible Markup Language (XML) and web services. XML is the language that will allow Microsoft software to run ideally on any platform, while web services are applications or services which can be delivered online using standard Internet software.

With this shift, Microsoft has begun developing newer versions of its widely used software including Windows Server, which is now designed primarily for enterprise systems.

"The .Net is no longer an initiative but a framework in which Microsoft develops products," added Andre Ngo, product manager for Developer Tools for Microsoft Philippines.

To prevent more confusion, Ngo said that .Net has been taken out of Microsoft's branding strategy, and just decided to keep the well-known brands such as Windows Server and SQL Server.

However, Ngo said that Microsoft will still label Microsoft web applications as ".Net-connected " in line with its .Net framework strategy.

The confusion about Microsoft Server products is clearly due to the product's name change four times since 2001. From its codename Whistler, the product now known as Windows Server 2003 was named Windows 2002 Server in April 2001. Then in June 2001, Microsoft changed the name to Windows .Net Server, adhering to its .Net Web services strategy.

In March 2002, Microsoft announced the delay of the product's release. In August 2002, the name was changed to Windows .Net Server 2003. This product was supposed to be released by the end of 2002. By November 2002, the product's release was pushed for the third time.

Released in April 2003, the software product is now known as Windows Server 2003.

In December 2002, Microsoft also announced its modified licensing terms for Windows Server 2003. The terms allow companies to license by user or per machine the software in installed into.

IT giants eye RP enterprise

From page B16

some of these products including Windows Server 2003, its latest server operating system, Visual Studio.NET 2003 and SQL Server 2000, with the official launch in the Philippines slated on May 20, 2003.

According to executives of Microsoft Philippines, "local companies are affected by a number of factors," although in Microsoft's case, sales from the enterprise sector remain on target.

Despite these difficulties, the local Microsoft office has managed to sell briskly to still-undisclosed companies, all belonging to the enterprise sector, said Abigail Suguitan, product manager for Microsoft Philippines.

Suguitan also said that among those adopting the latest Microsoft products include the Land Transportation Office, Globe Telecom, Development Bank of the Philippines and ABS-CBN Interactive.

German software company SAP meanwhile reported that it is gaining a significant foothold in the real estate sector, where only a few business groups have the money to invest in multimillion-peso applications such as CRM.

Local SAP executives noted that some real estate companies do not really have the money to invest, unlike their larger counterparts.

As with the general consensus, the real estate sector is also extra cautious when it comes to spending for their information systems.

Despite this however, SAP Philippines has bagged a significant contract from one of the larger real estate groups in the Philippines.

Will Filipinos go for MMS?

From page B16

you were here" message; sharing your incredible holiday scenic spots instantly. For instance, a digital photograph of you with the Stonehenge of England in the background.

Still another is you can send a picture of a pair of basketball shoes you got from the Internet and have your relatives buy them abroad rather than them trying to explain to a customer what you're talking about.

The Philippines undoubtedly holds the distinction of being the SMS capital of the world. In fact, foreigners would be amazed on how fast we can punch those keys using our thumbs. SMS is here to remain a killer application. The primary reason is that it's very simple to use and is comparable to having e-mail in terms of convenience. The immediate delivery of SMS and, eventually, the fact that a high number of people have cellular phones made it a conventional communication method.

As such, will Filipino's join the MMS bandwagon instantly?

MMS offers a richer messaging experience than SMS. The question is whether users will pay for MMS services or not. It all boils down to how operators price MMS services.

The interoperability between the mobile phone carriers is also a factor. Do you recall the time when "G" users can only send text to other "G" users and "S" users can send messages only to "S" users? That's the status of MMS in the country right now.

Another factor would be the availability of MMS-enabled handsets in the market as well as its affordability.

Also, how about international roaming? Would someone abroad be able to send you an MMS message and vice versa? How much would it cost?

One thing's for sure, though: The number of MMS messages will just be a small portion of the volume of SMS messages sent every day. MMS is an additional feature of the mobile phone and a feature will remain a feature if the end user doesn't find it beneficial.

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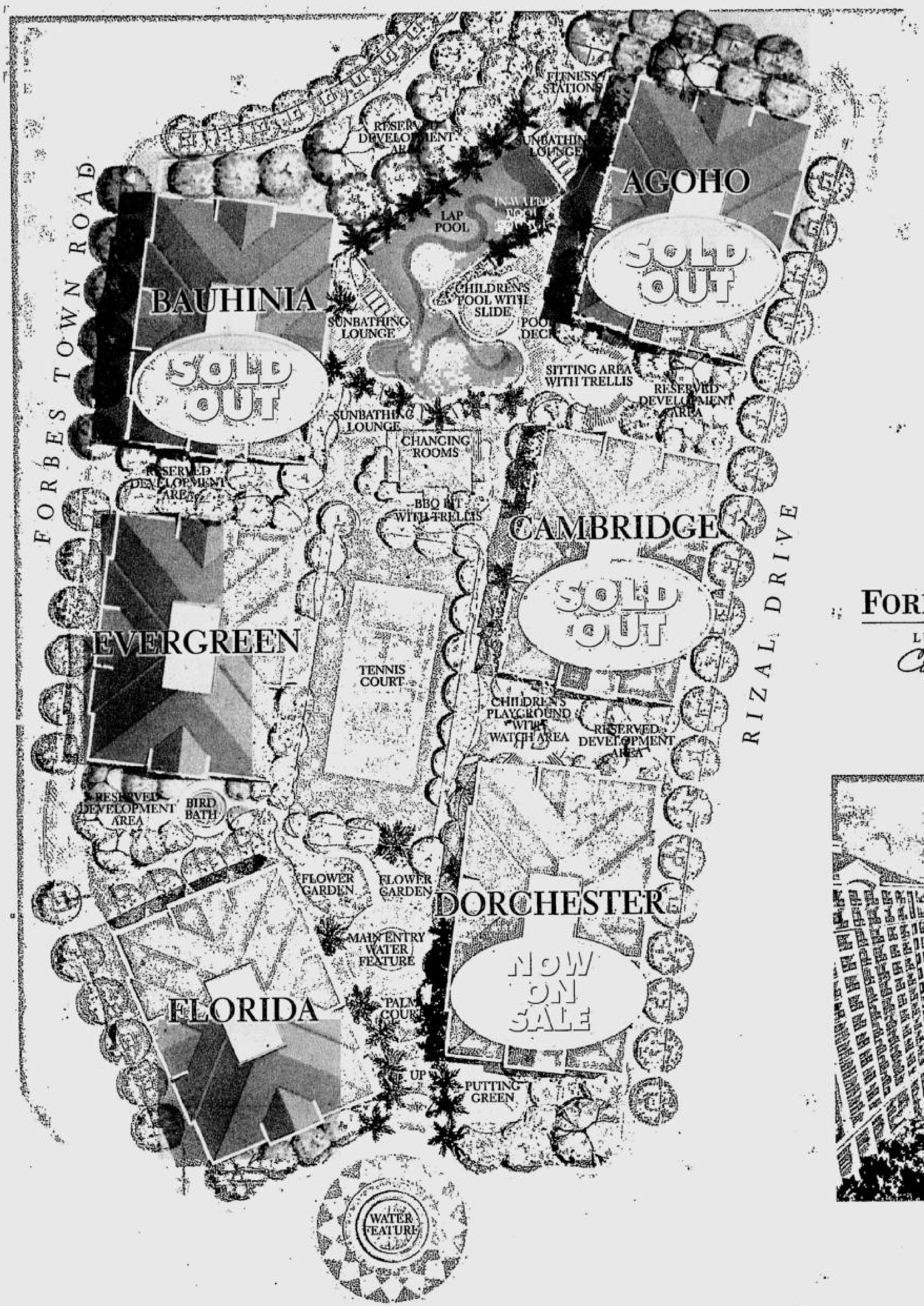
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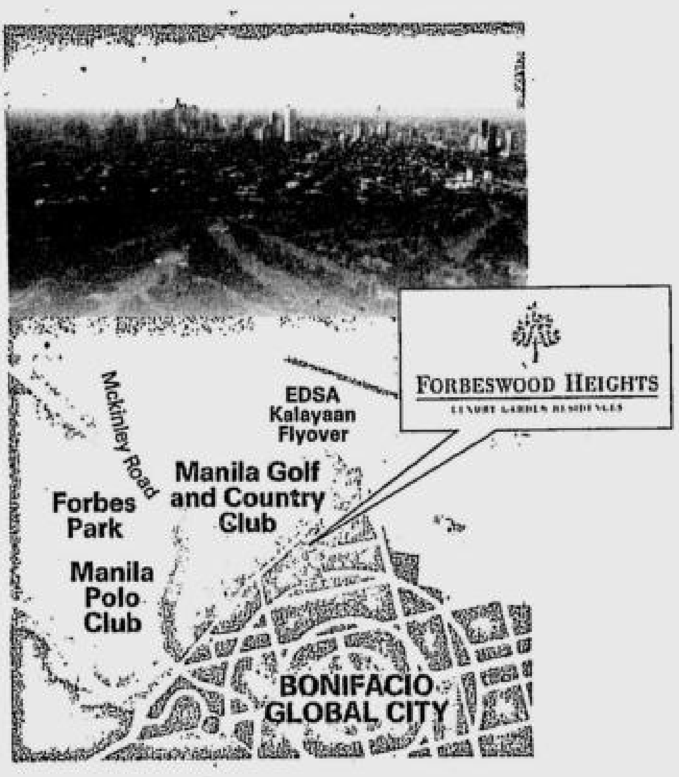
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Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

TOMORROW'S WORKPLACE

Flexible workers who work odd hours

THROUGHOUT the last few decades, many predictions about the future workplace have been made. But how many of them have been realized?

Films like "Brave New World" predicted we would be worshipping corporate gods like Henry Ford, but if that were the case today, we would be followers of Bill Gates and his new corporate religion, IT. And we would be working alongside androids indistinguishable from humans, as depicted in Ridley Scott's film "Bladerunner."

While the age of paperless office has yet to arrive and we wait in anticipation for the day when more leisure can be substituted for work, what can we realistically expect from the workplace in the next decade or two?

One certainty is the physical workplace is set to change "dramatically." Many economists believe corporate giants will become dinosaurs in the next few decades, as we'll all be working for smaller companies.

Given the recent downfall of giants like Enron and Anderson, it's hardly surprising . If you look at the US economy, small- and medium-sized companies already employ some 90 percent of its workforce.

According to Fortune Magazine, the Fortune 500 companies only account for the 9 percent of the US economy. Economists predict this trend will continue, with the rest of the world following that suit, as more companies globally start to outsource and contract out many of their functions like IT, training and HR.

Yet, regardless of the number of employees, firms large and small will be working very differently to the way they do today.

The traditional workday will disappear with globalization looming. Companies can't afford to restrict themselves to the 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. working day anymore. They will need a flexible and mobile work force that can work through different time zones.

Telecommuting finally a reality

One way companies can achieve this is through teleworking and the virtual office. In fact, an increasing number of employees are already working from home.

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FLEXIBLE/ B2-2

Fund firms urged to become more activist

NEW YORK—Big US mutual funds have long preferred to stay behind the scenes in disputes with corporate America, but an angry investor movement is drawing them into the fray.

Union-backed funds and public pension funds are leading the effort, demanding that companies change their policies on everything from executive pay to board elections.

Mutual funds, quieter and more conservative, are unlikely to follow suit by sponsoring resolutions calling for reforms at companies in which they invest. But investor advocates say there are signs that big fund firms are starting to take a bit more of an activist stance.

"People are voting more conscientiously," said Timothy Smith, senior vice president at Walden Asset Management, a money manager whose fund invests in socially-conscious companies.

The $6 trillion fund industry, which represents about 95 million investors, often has been criticized for being too cozy with companies and reluctant to vote for shareholder measures that company management opposes.

Mutual funds

Mutual funds are still not leading the charge for reform, Smith said, but they are starting to follow the agenda set by others. "What we haven't seen is a bump of a vast number of mutual funds moving into the public advocacy position, as we have with pension funds and others," he said.

Boston-based Walden, for example, sponsored a shareholder resolution at Avon Products Inc. calling for the annual election of directors, replacing the current staggered system of elections. The measure, opposed by the cosmetic company's board, passed by a vote of more than 80 percent on May 1.

"There's no way you get 80 percent of the vote without the support of many, many mainstream investors," Smith said, referring to mutual funds and other institutions.

Fund firms will soon see their own votes on shareholder issues reported to the public. After waging a harsh and unsuccessful fight against new disclosure rules by the US.

Proxy votes

Securities and Exchange Commission, funds themselves will be required to begin releasing their proxy voting records next year.

Usually fund firms prefer to sell a stock rather than get involved in a shareholder battle, said Peter Sorrentino, chief investment officer at money manager Bartlett & Co. in Cincinnati. But now, fund companies are under pressure from their investors to become more active in shareholder fights, and they are struggling with how much of a role they can and should play, he said.

"There is a little bit of a split personality there where for years they've been told, 'Don't flex your muscle, don't get involved on a day-to-day basis,'" he said. "But now they are being criticized for the fact that 'Hey, you invest a lot of money for the shareholders of your fund, you ought to take more of a concerned role.'"

Because fund firms are not yet required to disclose their proxy voting, it is generally not known how they vote on specific shareholder motions, observers say. But fund firms have issued general guidelines on how they vote, signaling how they will cast ballots on various issues, Smith said.

"I assume they are voting in favor of many of these corporate governance reforms," Smith said.

Fund companies say they have long been active in corporate governance, although they prefer the diplomatic route. The Vanguard Group, for example, says it advocates quiet diplomacy in the form of letters to companies and dialogue so that disagreements over corporate policies are resolved before they get to the stage of public proxy battles.

"The Fidelitys and Vanguards perhaps are not taking such a public approach, but they certainly are talking to these folks behind the scenes," said Alan Cleveland, legal counsel to institutional investors including the New

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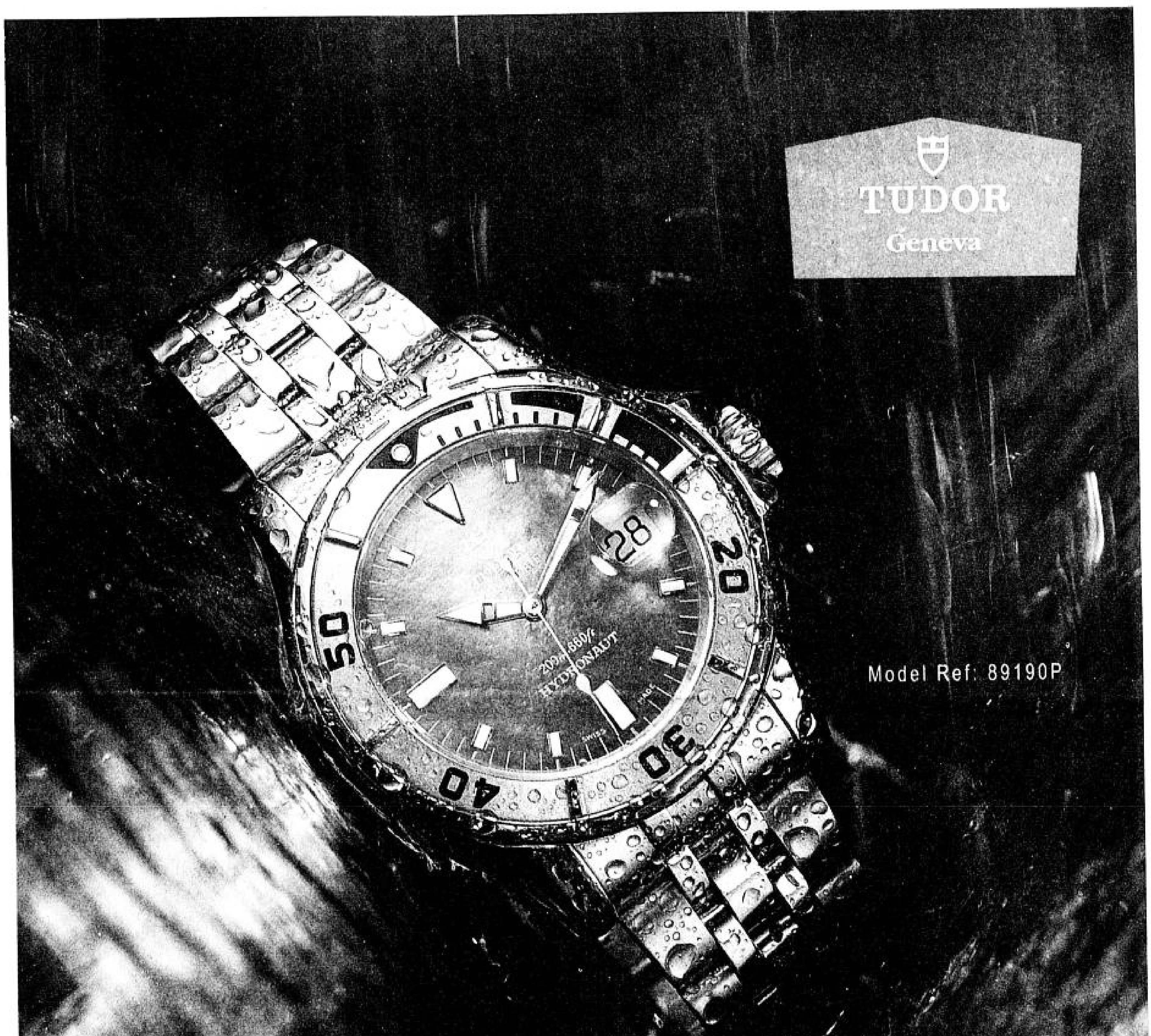

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-Level 2, Shangri-La Plaza Mall
-Level 2, Mega B, SM Megamall
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What does it take to be Best Employer?

MAPping THE FUTURE

Susan Grace R. Manalo

WE offer sincere congratulations to all of the 305 organizations, 40 of whom are from the Philippines, that took part in the Best Employers in Asia 2003 study.

In one respect, all of these organizations are winners because, by participating in the study, they are showing their determination to being or becoming a Best Employer. It does take courage to "confront your brutal facts," as Jim Collins—author of the best-seller "Good to Great" would say.

Research into the Best Employers in Asia is actually a response to very real business drivers within the current environment. Now more than ever, the Asian region is experiencing both economic and political uncertainty. Organizations are looking for support in building sustainable businesses.

Employees' opinions

The Best Employers in Asia 2003 study, like the numerous other Best Employer studies conducted by Hewitt Associates worldwide, is a significant and impartial research that identifies Best Employers based on employee opinions, the organization's people practices, and the perspective of the organization's CEO or most senior executive.

Data collected and analyzed by Hewitt is then handed, with the organization's name and other identifying characteristics omitted, to independent qualified judges who identify Best Employers based on the analysis and relevant criteria. It is a rigorous and holistic approach that provides Hewitt with an in-depth understanding of what all organizations should know as they meet the business challenges of the future.

Getting the best results

Hewitt has conducted similar studies in other parts of the world, most recently in Canada, Europe and Australia. A study is also currently being carried out in India. The Asian studies allow us to compare findings from this region with other work we have done around the world to help understand the issues of getting the best results from people regardless of the geographical location of business operations. The 2003 study is our second in the series in the region. This year's results have been as equally impressive as our inaugural study in 2001. The participation of 84,000 employees from 305 organizations and 21 industry sectors across 8 Asian nations makes the Best Employers Study one of the most exhaustive organizational researches ever conducted in Asia.

In the Philippines, over 11,700 employees from 40 organizations across 10 industry sectors participated. Of the 8 study markets, the Philippines ranked fourth in terms of number of participating organizations. Data gathered has provided us with a wealth of meaningful information from which we have developed some insights about Best Employers.

The past few years have been as good an example as you could get of the kind of challenges a company can face. As you are no doubt aware, we are all operating our businesses in "interesting times."

The global economic environment since 9-11 and recently the Iraq war and the continuing SARS scare have been tough on most if not all companies, leading many to take drastic measures such as laying off a good number of their employees, or dropping out and closing shop entirely. Moreover, the outlook in the short-term remains cloudy and uncertain.

Naturally, this tough economic climate is reflected in this year's Best Employers in Asia study, which found that, ultimately, what differentiates the Best Employers in Asia from the rest in 2003 is their staying power in a fiercely challenging and competitive market.

Sustainability

For the Best Employers in Asia 2003, the key word has to be sustainability. The study found that Asia's Best Employers were companies that were able to sustain their customer relationships, employee relationships, a continuous pipeline of leaders, knowledge creation and retention, and—last but not least—their competitive edge.

Both the 2001 and 2003 studies consistently show that Best Employers believe that people are central to the organization's success. They are strong and effective in executing people issues. And they make business decisions and approach challenges with their people in mind.

Employees of the Best, in turn, do much to contribute to the success of their organizations. According to the study, employees of Best Employers feel strongly engaged in their work with the organization. They clearly understand the direction the business is taking. And they behave in ways that are clearly aligned to the organization's business goals. So it's a win-win situation for the employer and the employees.

This is the winning formula that allows Best Employers to produce better business results. The 2003 study shows that the compound annual average revenue growth rate for the Best Employers in Asia over the two year period from 1999 to 2001 was almost 50 percent higher than that of other companies participating in the study. Other productivity measures reinforce this finding.

There are six themes that emerged from the study. Best employers:

- Possess a sharp focus and clarity, sharing it simply but effectively with employees;
- Relentlessly develop the best talent and invest in keeping them at the leading edge;
- Avoid distractions by focusing on the most important matters;
- Demonstrate respect for their people by holding them accountable for results and enthusiastically recognizing their achievements;
- Inspire and maintain a passion for outstanding achievement; and they
- Harness the power of their culture and create a family-like environment.

These are the six key attributes common to best employers. So to the Best Employers in the room tonight, we commend and salute your efforts at having created a culture for the "best."

You have what it takes to create business results and high performance. You are fortunate in having worked through the powerful combination of aligning your business goals, your people needs, and your people strategies. You know that this is not an easy task and definitely not one that is easily copied. You also know it is one that requires the ongoing dedication and commitment of your leadership and your people. These are what make you better prepared for the future.

I like to highlight the glaring fact that among the 8 participating markets, the Philippines Best Employers garnered the highest average engagement score (75% vs 58% Asia) and alignment score (73% vs 62% Asia). Engagement means employees of the participating organizations speak highly of their company, want to continue working there and are committed to the company's success. Alignment means every level of the company, from top management to junior employees, shows an understanding of and support for a common direction for the company.

These findings augur well for our country—as our people, our workforce are indeed our greatest asset as a nation now challenged on all fronts by a multitude of adverse geopolitical and economic realities. This brings to mind our migrant workers and those in-country who struggle with great resiliency, passion and commitment to shape better lives. This means we have within our midst a workforce with such vast potential that waits to be harnessed by the kind of leadership that can provide clear and consistent direction and inspire hope regardless of time and circumstance. We, Filipino employers and employees alike, have the building blocks for a great future! How that potential gets translated into concrete results is the challenge we face.

Allow me to quote from one employee of a Philippines Best Employer—"My company practices to the letter what it stands for—its purpose, values, and principles. The interests of the company and its employees are one and inseparable ... "

This is what we all aspire for. We, in Hewitt Associates, through the Best Employers in Asia Study, demonstrate our commitment to that aspiration.

(The author is the Country Manager of Hewitt Associates. The MAP Secretariat and the author may be reached via mapsec@globenet.com.ph)

Flexible workers who work odd hours

From page B2-1

mail and fax, many workers can work just as effectively as their colleagues at the office. After decades of futuristic predictions about work-at-home technology, telecommuting is finally becoming a reality.

Surveys by Cyber Dialogue (a New York-based research and consulting firm) and the International Telework Association & Council show that the number of teleworkers in the US increased from just 4 million in 1990 to 23.8 million at the end of 2000. Countries in other regions like Europe are following suit. And these figures are set to increase. In a bid to minimize office overheads in inner-city areas, we're likely to see an increasing number of companies implementing a workforce made up of a network of home workers. The savings corporations can make are huge. According to the US Telework Council, companies can save $10,000 a year on an employee who telecommutes—just one day a week. So it certainly makes financial sense. And in the future we'll see more of it.

Improved technology means managers can let go of the old "bums on seats" mentality at the office. Nilles predicts work will be just as easily managed through a central processing computer, that would be controlled by the manager who sends out work schedules and oversees the activity of each employee. New inventions, like video screens with better capabilities than today's Webcam, will allow managers to not only view several employees at once on their screen, but also capture the "mood" of their employees. (And of course, records of all conversations and correspondence could be compiled and held in protected areas for future reference.) As well as video screens and computer cameras, corporations will better utilize tracking facilities already existing via Internet and mobile phones. So even when the mobile isn't in use it is in constant contact with the base station, automatically informing them of your whereabouts. Corporations will not only be able to electronically track employees' movements but also better measure labor productivity both in and out of the office.

So, do all these changes spell the end of the office? Not exactly ...

Fuelled by the need for socialization, interaction and collaboration, the office is sure to live on for a few more decades, but in a very different guise. Workers will go to the office for new reasons—to be with each other, to collaborate, to learn and to socialize. "Workers will always have the need to come together to capture the collective synergy of a team in developing solutions to business challenges," explains Gary E. Wheeler in "Work Patterns Emerging in the 21st Century."

If in the old economy, factories were designed to maximize standardized production, then in the new economy offices should be designed to maximize individual creativity.

It's an office Jim, but not as we know it ...

"Within a decade," says Bill Miller, head of research at US design firm Steelcase, "the era of the cubicle will wither and rooms will become easily changeable. People will spend their time in project rooms or project clusters, working with team members on one project, then moving on to another cluster/room to work with a different group—on a different project. Also computers will be redesigned for simultaneous group work rather than for individual work. You go where you need to be—just like at home. After all, there's no presumption that anyone will spend the entire day in the living room or the kitchen."

Miller also believes that work and home will become indistinguishable: "There will be a lot of the home at the office, and a lot of the office at the home. Video screens will cover whole walls, both at home and at the office in order to communicate with other workers."

Designers Jeff Reuschel and Brian Alexander, part of an eight-person furniture think tank, (the Industrial Design Group in the US), are working on furniture and office ware designed to mirror the way humans think—in other words office ware that allows things to float around.

Reuschel and Alexander figure that if your space mirrors your brain, you aren't wasting time keeping track of how two different spaces are organized. So those employees still bustling to the company facility Monday through Friday will certainly find some unexpected surprises in future, including more comfort and better lighting.

A changing workplace will also mean a changing workforce. Medical advances in the last 50 years have made longer life spans a reality. This will undoubtedly affect the workplace. "There are going to be extended work years. Professionals are going to opt to remain in the workforce beyond the magic age of 65," says James D. Carter, studio principal at The Hillier Group, in Philadelphia.

People could be working up until 80 or even older. This means we'll have between three and seven generations working together as opposed to today's two or three. And older workers, as they resort to part-time hours in their later years, relinquishing responsibilities will have to become more accustomed to working for bosses who may well be the same age as their great grandchildren.

We'll also see a more diverse workforce in terms of race, as countries like Japan and the US rely on immigrants as well as older workers to make up for their shrinking workforces.

Of course, all these changes will have major repercussions on society. For example, the consequences may be huge as big corporations move out of cities and workers relocate to cheaper and more desirable or remote locations for better and cheaper standards of living. One can only speculate if this will result in plummeting real estate prices as well as desolation in the cities.

Work and play

Then what are the repercussions of teleworking? As we become even more at the mercy of the mobile phone and the Internet, the fine line between work and leisure becomes yet more blurred. How will individuals separate work and play if leisure time continues to diminish? According to some future organizations like The World Future Society, we will see centers emerging where our leisure time activities can interact to combat our overworking. For example a public place for meeting business or social contacts, with a restaurant or café, gym, library, Internet access and a cinema all under one roof, which makes sense if you want to provide a hook that keeps people there as long as possible.

Ultimately, however, advanced technologies will bring more freedom and more choice to the way we work in the future.

With more advanced, portable and wireless technology, we won't necessarily need to stay at the home or office. We'll be able to connect easily with the company while sitting at a local café or the beach, from anywhere in the world. (For more details on how technological advancements will improve tomorrow's workplace, see part 5 of this series).

Impact of technology

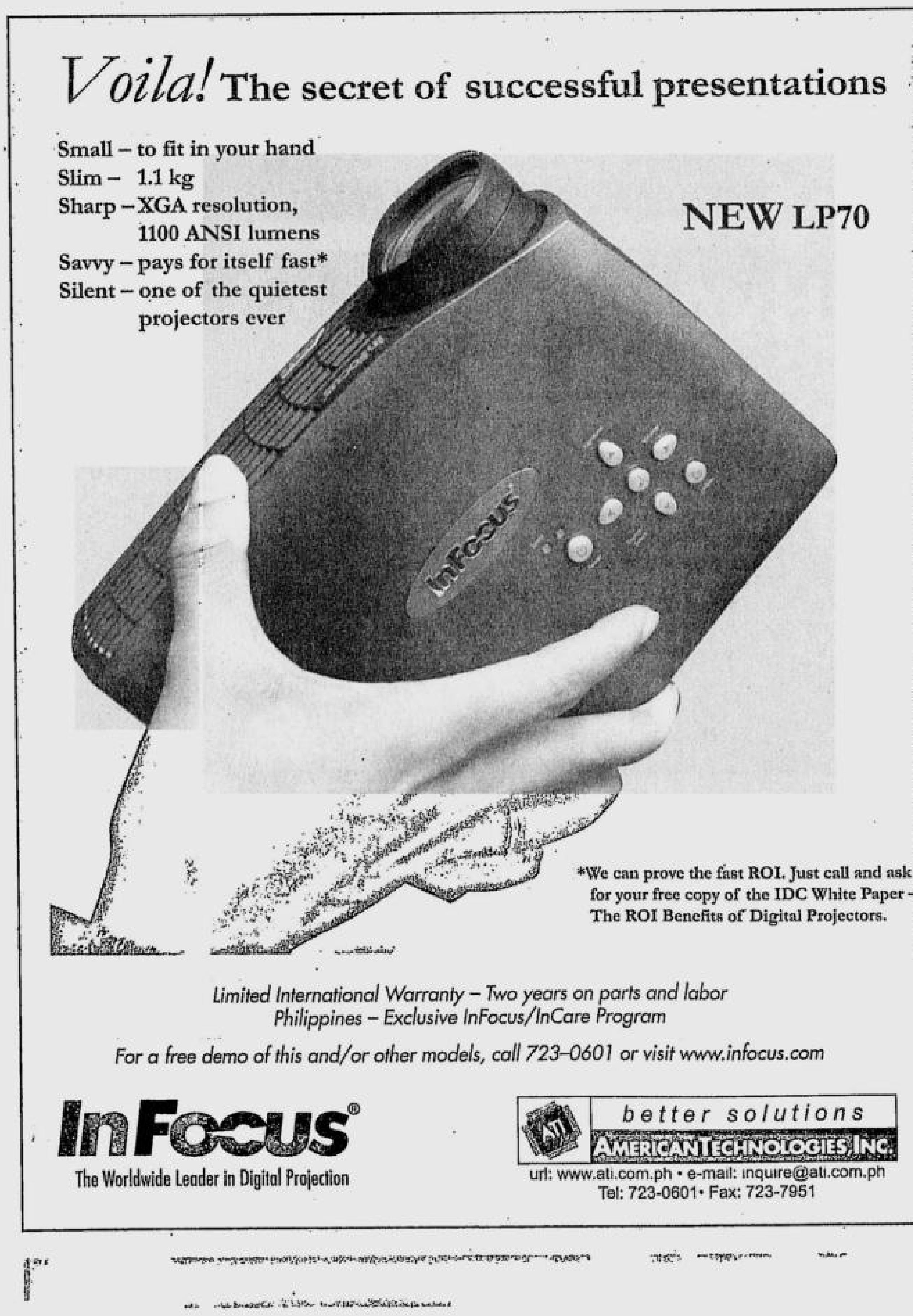
Technological advancements are not only set to change the way we work but are already having a profound impact on all sectors in the global economy. Increased automation through IT means faster and improved output of goods and services across all sectors.

Nobel laureate, economist, Wassily Leontief pointed out, that the introduction of increasingly sophisticated computers will mean the role of humans as the most important factor of production will diminish, in the same way as the role of horses in agriculture was eliminated by the introduction of tractors. It's already happened in manufacturing.

Business guru Peter Drucker estimated that jobs in manufacturing would shrink even further over the next decade, (especially in the West) partly because of cheaper production costs in the less-developed parts of the world and also because of increased automation replacing many repetitive tasks. And he was right.

Economists once believed that the service sectors would absorb the millions of unemployed displaced from the primary and secondary sectors. But that never happened. Unfortunately, even jobs in the service sector are now being lost to computers and automation and re-engineering are already replacing human labor across a wide swath of service related fields.

Take the banking and finance sector for example, where computers have replaced millions of back end office jobs. *(From the Tomorrow's World of Work Series of Thomson DBM)*



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Predicting consumer behavior via numbers

STUDENTS generally abhor numbers, or rather the challenge of understanding them. Worse, most professors teaching numerical data (i.e. calculus, geometry and statistics) are typecast as "terrors" who are seen to make the subject harder instead of making them understandable and appealing.

"My fascination for numbers came about a quarter of a century ago. I was quite intrigued as to how Dr. Spock (of Star Trek) could speak in exact numbers and why his answers had to be that precise. Perhaps this was what led me to become a statistician."

Important Data

"Even the great Sherlock Holmes affirmed the importance of data when he said that 'it is a capital mistake to theorize before one has data and that insensibly one begins to twist facts to suit theories, instead of theories to suit facts.' I am actually on a quest to helping people learn from data," confesses Dr. Jose Ramon Albert, chief of the research division of the Statistical Research and Training Center (SRTC).

Albert believes that a statistician's purpose is to respond to the ever growing information needs of the society.

"A statistician has to be open because some people tend to think in boxes. We try to minimize our mistakes and do our best to handle research activities, develop ways of improving survey methods and analyze information," stresses Albert.

The importance of facts or data can be felt even in the simplest of situations. People decide based on things they know and believe to be true. Even our daily route to the school or office is based on what we know about the traffic situation at that given time or day. For example, motorists avoid main roads during rush hours and the Baclaran area on Wednesdays.

Albert takes statistics to a more dynamic level when he relates this discipline to marketing and how it can be maximized as a speaker at the National Marketing Conference (NMC) slated on May 28 and 29, at the Westin Philippine Plaza, to be mounted by the Philippine Marketing Association (PMA).

With the theme "Creative Marketing: New Markets, New Rules, New Strategies," the annual conference focuses on the critical role creative marketing plays in society.

Albert is set to speak on "Predictive Marketing: Data Mining to Optimize Results. " He will explain what exactly predictive modeling is and will introduce current tools that will enable people to make sense of data and share some success stories. Predictive modeling, for instance, is about formulation and analysis of statistical models in large databases. Policies are developed and important decisions are made based on predictive models. The government uses a lot of this say whether or not to import rice.

Beer and diapers?

Albert laments that business operations in the Philippines, however, want to get the most profits with minimal investments.

They revolve around putting emphasis on the short-term. They hardly give attention to the customers and their expectations.

This is where the beauty of statistics could come in, Albert stresses. Predicting customer's behavior (at least in normal times) is made easier by technology which makes it possible to develop faster ways of data retrieval.

"In this day and age, there's so much data to be stored, retrieved and accessed. It is important to mine data, translate it to useful information and make better sense out of the business. A study in the US for example showed that at a convenient store, tape receipts revealed that when men buy beer, they also buy diapers. If store owners know this information, they will benefit more by placing diapers alongside the beer, for example," explains Albert.

Knowing how your customers behave in the marketing arena can be a very big help in terms of marketing strategies and the products you are going to market. Data mining presents a very effective way of predicting customer behavior. Customer attitudes and behavior can now be tracked and analyzed for trends and patterns.

The bar codes of products in grocery stores, for example, can be utilized to find out the patterns in consumer behavior. Through data mining, regularly conducted surveys and statistical analysis can bring about a wider range of information, producing a more detailed predictive model. With the use of predictive models, customer responses to new products and services can be foreseen as well as how to keep existing customers.

Perfect model

"Of course, there's always the possibility that your models are wrong. Models help in guiding the decision maker as to which route to take. There's no such thing as a perfect model. They are by nature, imperfect. Just keep in mind that your data is always telling a story. You'll just have to figure out which one to address first," shares Albert.

In the Philippines, it is quite noticeable that most McDonald's and Jollibee outlets are built beside each other. This is after both realized based on financial statements that their proximity to each other provides a healthy competition. In this manner, they rake in more sales, leading to more profits. Now, they even consult each other when bidding for a new place to set up a new branch.

"Through predictive models, opportunity costs are lessen. The point is really trying to make sense of the information. Being competitive is knowing more than your rivals in the marketing arena. Our ways of thinking improve considerably so we get to learn to analyze situation for our own purposes," stresses Albert.

(Albert teaches at the University of the Philippines-School of Statistics and the De La Salle University Graduate School of Business.)

Dual degree program aims to make better lawyers

POST-GRADUATE dual degree programs are now making a groundbreaking debut in the history of Philippine education with the introduction of the first MBA-JD Dual Degree Program offered by the De La Salle University Professional Schools Inc. Graduate School of Business (DLSU PSI-GSB) and the Far Eastern University Institute of Law (FEU-IL).

Through the concerted efforts and expertise of DLSU PSI-GSB and FEU-IL, postgraduate students can now earn a Juris Doctor (JD) degree and a Master of Business Administration (MBA) simultaneously. The MBA-JD Dual Degree Program was created on the premise that society is served best by businessmen and lawyers with diverse education, training, background and orientation.

"The introduction of this unique dual degree program could not have been more timely," states DLSU PSI-GSB dean Philip E. Juico. "Considering the competitiveness in the corporate world these days, individuals armed with two post-graduate degrees that they earned in a fast and cost-efficient manner will definitely enjoy an advantage over their peers."

This "marriage" of relevant courses was introduced in leading universities in the United States in the early 1970s. Such programs are ideal for students who want careers that encourage a broader perspective on related disciplines.

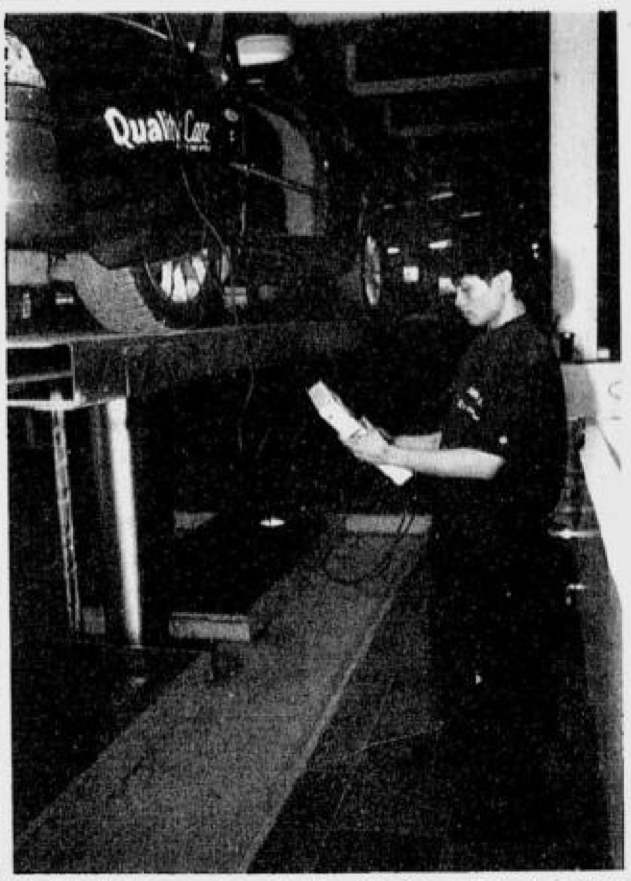
Typically, joint degrees take one year less than two degrees taken separately. The MBA-JD Dual Degree in particular, takes only five years to complete instead of the usual six, because pre-approved courses are credited for the two-degree programs. This means savings in terms of money and time.

Although students are expected to be hard-pressed in their studies under the MBA-JD Dual Degree Program, they can nevertheless be assured of obtaining knowledge and skills necessary to function in law and business. DLSU PSI-GSB has been recognized as one of the top 25 MBA schools in the Asia-Pacific region, while FEU-IL has an illustrious past as one of the trailblazers of the country's legal system. This tandem of reputable educational institutions will be a force to reckon with as far as innovative yet relevant higher education is concerned.

"We are very pleased with our tie-up with DLSU PSI-GSB in introducing this breakthrough dual degree program," says FEU-IL dean Andres D. Bautista. "We are very confident that the new MBA-JD Dual Degree Program will be welcome in the country and will eventually be regarded highly."

To date, the MBA-JD Dual Degree Program is the most popular combination program in universities abroad, followed closely by other popular MBA pairings such as the MPP (Master of Public Policy), the ME (Master of Engineering) and the MHA (Master in Hospital Administration), which is targeted at students interested in hospital administration. The list gets longer every year, as students try to beef up their skills and marketability in a tough job environment.

For more information on the MBA-JD Dual Degree Program of DLSU PSI-GSB and the FEU-IL, please call 753-4616, 753-4618 or 753-4611 locals 101 or 107. Inquiries may likewise be coursed through dean Andres D. Bautista at abautista@feu.edu.ph or vice dean Pia T. Manalastas at manalastasp@dlsu.edu.ph



Worldwide Diagnostics System (WDS) and New Generation Star (NGS) service diagnostic tools are available to ensure proper repairs are done for Mazda customers. For Appointments, please call 742-3453 or 927-9655

GENUINE PARTS AND QUALITY SERVICE NOW AVAILABLE FOR MAZDA OWNERS

Backyard car repair and parts surplus shops may have a steady following because of their lower rates but a huge chunk of car owners still seek out official parts and service dealers to ensure quality of parts and efficiency of service for their vehicles. Proof of this is the response of Mazda customers to the opening of the first official parts and service dealer for Mazda passenger cars, Matterhorn Motors.

"Ever since the announcement of our appointment as official Mazda parts and service dealer, we have been averaging twenty inquiries a day from Mazda customers with questions ranging from the availability of parts to the services we offer," Mike Cheng, Matterhorn Motors president, said. He added that walk-in customers have also started coming consistently into the Matterhorn service facility mainly for the maintenance of their Mazda passenger cars.

"This really shows that there is a need for genuine parts and quality service. Now that we are here for the long run, Mazda customers can be assured of its availability whenever they need it," Cheng explained.

As an added incentive, Matterhorn Motors is currently offering the first 200 Mazda customers who come in for service a free Shell Gas Card with 20 liters of Shell Velocity. "We want to encourage all Mazda passenger car owners to go to authorized parts and service dealers to ensure that they will get only premium service that they deserve," Cheng said.

MATTERHORN MOTORS BRINGS NEW MEANING TO SERVICE FOR MAZDA CUSTOMERS

Mazda customers are being treated to a new level of service with the appoinment of Matterhorn Motors, which is also an official dealer of Ford Philippines through Ford Balintawak and Ford Quezon Avenue, as parts and service dealer for Mazda passenger cars in the country.

It will be a welcome surprise to Mazda customers who will now face a ready supply of fast-moving parts and a very efficient parts ordering process for badly needed items. Moreover, they will now experience the same levels of service pampering that Ford customers are enjoying. Not only are Mazda customers able to easily source original parts for their vehicles through Matterhorn, they are now also assured of uniform and quality standards of service for their vehicles.

"The Quality Care service process, which has earned for Ford top Customer Satisfaction honors for 2 consecutive years as awarded by J. D. Power, will also be experienced by Mazda Customers, " Mike Cheng, Matterhorn Motors' President,said.

Such service enhancements for Mazda customers include the convenience of arranging for the service appointments to ensure prompt attention to their vehicles' needs once they arrive at dealership. This also reduces waiting time for their service completion.

State-of-the-art facilities also assure Mazda customers of accurate diagnosis of electronic systems of their vehicles'. Service checks, using advanced equipment, allow more accurate diagnosis of their vehicles' different systems and ensures the continued efficient performance of their Mazda units.

For appointment schedules as well as inquiries on available original Mazda parts and service, get in touch with Matterhorn Motors at 455-8082 / 416-7223 (Parts) and 742-3456 / 927-9654 (Service). ADV'T

PNB

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL BANK

NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of the Philippine National Bank will be held on May 27, 2003 at 8:00 a.m. at the Ballroom, Upper Lobby, Century Park Hotel, 599 Pablo Ocampo Sr. St., Malate, Manila.

The Agenda for the meeting is as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Secretary's Proof of Notice and Quorum
3. Approval of the Minutes of the 2002 Annual Stockholders' Meeting held on June 25, 2002
4. Report of the President on the Results of Operations for the Year 2002
5. Approval of the 2002 Annual Report
6. Ratification of All Acts and Proceedings of the Board of Directors and Corporate Officers since the 2002 Annual Stockholders' Meeting
7. Election of Directors
8. Appointment of External Auditor
9. Other Matters
10. Adjournment

Minutes of the 2002 Annual Stockholders' Meeting as well as resolutions of the Board of Directors from June 26, 2002 will be available for examination during office hours at the Office of the Corporate Secretary.

Only stockholders of record as of April 28, 2003 will be entitled to vote at this meeting.

If you cannot personally attend the meeting, you may designate your authorized representative by submitting a PROXY to the Office of the Corporate Secretary not later than 5:00 p.m. on May 22, 2003. A Proxy shall conform with the requirements of Sec. 58 of the Corporation Code, and shall be affixed with a duly paid documentary stamp tax in accordance of Sec. 192 of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997.

Pasay City, March 21, 2003

RENATO J. FERNANDEZ
Corporate Secretary

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Telling the story of a 'love-hate' relationship

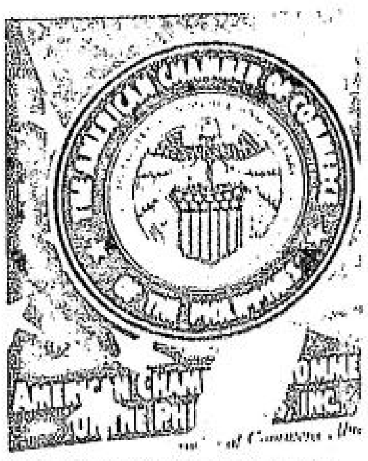
HOW does one begin to tell a story of the love-hate relationship between Filipinos and Americans.

This particular tale takes us back 100 years and it starts in a place called Clarke's on the then bustling Escolta in downtown Manila, the center of the capital's economic activities from the 1900s to the late 1960s.

In 1902, a group of Americans sat down at the famous Round Table to form a business association which was to be the core group that eventually formed the American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, a solid partnership of mèn and women who today remain dedicated to promoting busness—and the sharing of the fruits of business—throughout the archipelago.

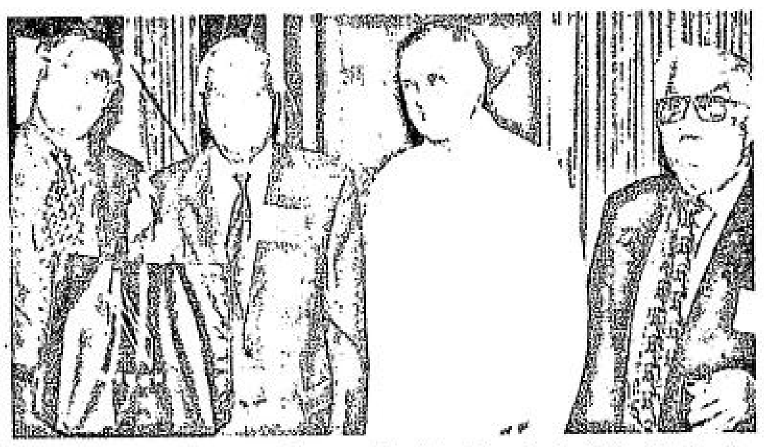
This historic event and more are captured in a coffee table book entitled "Spanning the Decades 1902-2002," a book commissioned by the American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, the first chamber outside the mainland United States, in celebration of its centennial.

Former President Fidel V. Ramos was the guest of honor during the recent launch of the book.



CARLYNN Manning, associate director for marketing of Mondial Tours and Travel

FORMER President Fidel V. Ramos, George Hanefeld and Leslie Ann Murray

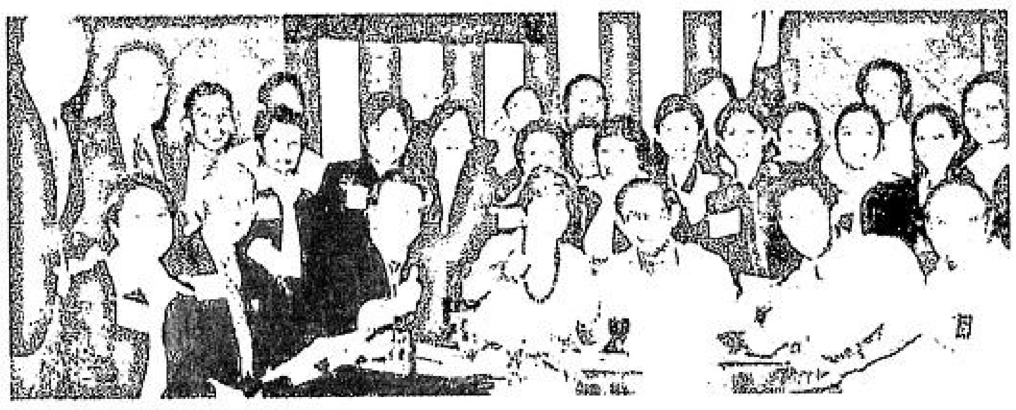


JOHN Forbes of Eastern Voyager, Patricio Lim, chair of The Peninsula Manila, Christopher Bell-Knight, country manager, Bank of Nova Scotia and Stan Krug.

AMBASSADOR Francis Ricciardone, Guy Sacerdoti, Leslie Ann Murray and Robert Sears

AMBASSADOR Francis Ricciardone, former President Fidel V. Ramos and Harold McQueen

WILLIAM Palmer, Energy Secretary Vincent Perez and George Henefeld



THE AMCHAM staff

Schools look to wireless to boost learning

CHICAGO—Sarah Wille didn't get sick when she dissected a fetal pig in science class, because she'd seen its innards before.

The 12-year-old had studied the diagrams ahead of time on the Internet over a wireless laptop computer.

"Lots of kids were nervous about what the pigs were going to look like and pretty confused because we'd never looked at the inside of anything. It was much easier when we knew what to expect," Sarah said.

On Mondays, she uses the same laptop to work on math quizzes structured for her ability level on a Web site.

Sarah is a student at Winston Campus in the Chicago suburb of Palatine, which is part of a growing number of schools that are incorporating laptop computers and wireless Internet technology into their buildings and classrooms.

Most US public schools are equipped with desktop computers and computer labs, but the relatively new wireless Internet technology called WiFi gives pupils instant access to the Internet to help with any subject in any classroom.

WiFi is already available in many universities, which generally have more vast resources, but now the technology is trickling down into lower-level schools. It is one of the fastest-growing budget items for technology.

Learning wherever, whenever

WiFi, or 802.11b, is an ultra high-speed wireless Internet connection usually available within a radius of a few hundred feet. By setting up multiple access points or "hot spots," schools can make wireless Internet access available throughout their campuses.

"A big part of what wireless makes possible is the flexible reconfiguration of classrooms, so students can take with them whatever tools they need and use them wherever they happen to be," said Chris Dede, a professor specializing in learning technologies at the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

WiFi technology is already used in many businesses and homes, and wireless operator T-Mobile offers the service in Starbucks cafes, Borders bookstores and airports.

At Independence High School in San Jose, California, where sophomores were assigned laptops to use for the school year, Principal Cari Vaeth said she sees students with their laptops open at picnic tables outside during lunch time.

"It really has expanded the amount of time they really can be learning," said Vaeth. "The work they're doing is in greater depth and has involved more critical thinking and research."

Such technology can level the playing field among students of different abilities ranging from learning-disabled to advanced, said Drex Maggio, a librarian at Winston Campus.

"You can have Web sites that are a little easier and some that are more challenging, so you individualize the class ability-wise," Maggio said.

Next generation

Over 90 percent of students attend the 110,000 public schools throughout the United States from kindergarten through 12th grade.

These schools combined spend about $6.2 billion a year on technology needs, including hardware, software, networking equipment and staff development, according to EduVentures, the leading US educational consulting firm. *Reuters*

Higher value can be gained without increasing purchases

By Fortunato T. de la Peña
Contributor

ALL but one per cent of Philippine enterprises are small or medium-sized. They contribute 50 per cent of total employment in the manufacturing sector and produce 9 percent of total exports. They also account for 17 percent of total value added in the manufacturing sector.

Less quantifiable is the capability of SMEs to create jobs at relatively low capital investments. As is their ability to nurture budding entrepreneurial ventures. Also difficult to measure is how much SMEs are able to disperse industrial activities to the rural areas, thus helping distribute income more equitably.

Nevertheless, SMEs need help to overcome size-related problems and constraints. For one, they are hard pressed to source credit and capital. They cannot produce and sell in economical volumes. They are set back by low productivity in general.

When SMEs are admonished to shape up or perish in the barrier-free market environment, they are actually being urged to raise their productivity. This is an imperative for survival and growth today.

Profitability is the ratio of operating profit to operating capital. In other words, it is the relationship between the income produced and the resources spent in producing it. Resources refer to labor, capital, raw materials, technology and all other inputs into production.

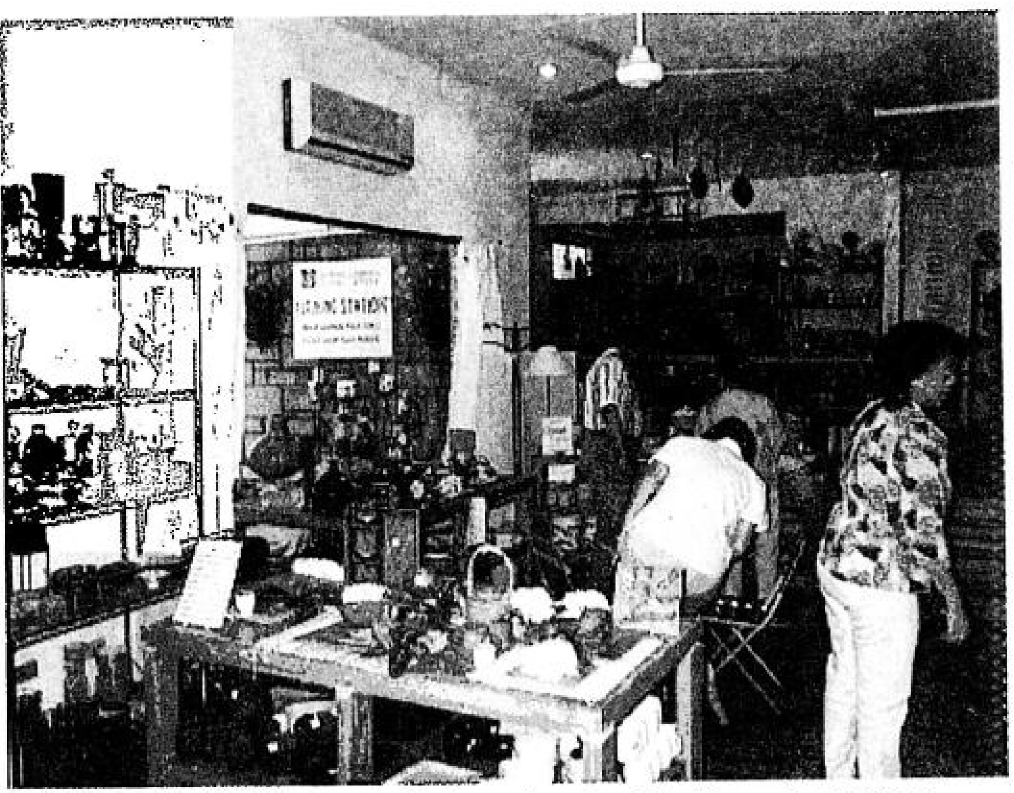
Understanding productivity gives the SME manager an edge over his competitors.

A productivity measure or ratio is a figure expressing a key relationship on which the success of a business depends. Because ratios express relationships, they can provide a better judgment than absolute figures. By relating events, productivity ratios show what is really happening in the business.

The key questions that a productivity ratio may answer are:

- Which departments or parts of the business are doing better than others?
- Why are some parts doing less well than others?
- What are the effects of the performance of given parts of the business on overall performance?
- What effect would changes of strategy on given parts have on overall performance?

One of the most common measures of productivity is the value added per employee. In order to produce goods, a company has to buy raw materials and supplies, hire labor, use fuel and other inputs. The difference between the total value of outputs (good produced for sale) and total cost of inputs is called value added. Thus, value added is the net wealth created by the company.



HIGHER value added may be attained by increasing sales without increasing purchases.

Higher value added can be attained by increasing sales without increasing purchases or decreasing purchases without decreasing sales. Higher labor productivity can be achieved by increasing output through employees who work harder and more efficiently.

This may result from training, better working environment, improved systems and higher worker morale. On the other hand, higher capital productivity may be achieved through technological improvement, effective R & D, or organizational development.

From operations, one can gather signs of rising or declining productivity. Some of the important indicators are reject rates, savings in electricity usage, and volume of products generated per man-hour by each production line.

Savvy managers share these information with employees, who then find it easier to identify with the overall management objectives.

Incentive payments become more meaningful when related with productivity measures. Productivity and incentive schemes come in varied forms. Group schemes are simpler to undertake. Here, overall performance achieved becomes the basis for the bonus percentage.

Everyone gets the same percentage according to his salary rate. Individual schemes are more complex to administer. This is where a worker's individual performance is considered in determining bonus percentage.

Karl Welsh, former CEO of General Electric, measures results by three yardsticks: customer satisfaction; employee satisfaction; and cash flow—not profit, as profit is only an accounting measure. Profit can come from productivity increases, price increases or by squeezing internal costs.

Increasing productivity is the surest way of accelerating or at least maintaining profits both now and in the future.

(The author is the undersecretary of the Department of Science and Technology. He will discuss SMEs and productivity at the Jubilee Congress of the Netherlands Fellows Foundation of the Philippines Inc. on the theme "Sharing of Best Practices" on May 29-30 at Bayview Hotel. Please contact Lory Sandoval at 9287076 to 79; 9206923.)

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Go on a 60-minute vacation at Body Bliss Spa

YOU don't need much to pamper yourself. All it takes is a short trip to Body Bliss Spa, Facial and Wellness Center in Greenhills, San Juan to experience total relaxation and rejuvenation. Body Bliss is a personal sanctuary where you can relax, escape for a few hours and recharge.

Upon entering Body Bliss, your sensory experience begins with the therapeutic aromas of peppermint or eucalyptus. Your blood pressure starts to slow down with the soothing melodies. Wrapped in a soft cotton robe and slippers, you unwind in the lounge chairs with a warm herbal drink. You forget your worries amidst flowers, ambient candies and the lulling sound of water. You feel your tension melt in the sauna and your own private whirlpool tub. Body Bliss assures your privacy with separate relaxation areas for men and women.

Once you are relaxed and ready, you will be led to the wellness rooms, done in mood-evoking, relaxing colors of light blue (for the males) and light plum (for females). Feel your aches dissolve as professionally-trained therapists, most of whom are physical therapists, give you the soothing massage of your choice. Take your pick from the best relaxation techniques from the East and West. Body Bliss not only offers the best-known massages such as European or Swedish with its long flowing strokes using massage oil, and Japanese shiatsu which balances your energy using pressure from the thumbs, hands, elbows and knees, but also more unique relaxation therapies such as Thai yoga, aroma stone and crystal massage, and Chinese reflexology.

For the time-starved individuals who would like a quick pick-me-up, Body Bliss offers the express soother, a 30-minute seated massage on the head and back.

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Bits & Clips

RMHC Charity Golf Tournament

MCDONALD'S social responsibility arm, the Ronald McDonald House of Charities (RMHC) proudly announces the holding of the 7th Annual RMHC Charity Golf Tournament today, at Sta. Elena Golf Club in Cabuyao, Laguna. Through this yearly event, RMHC raises funds for the RMHC Bahay Bulilit Day Care Center Program that aims to build day care centers all over the country in cooperation with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), local government units and deserving communities.

31st National Convention on Filipino Language set

THE DEPARTMENT of Education (DepEd) in cooperation with the Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino (KWF) will hold its 31st National Convention on Filipino Language on May 13 to 16 in Baguio City. To be headed by the Pambansang Samahan ng mga Tagamasid at Tagapagtaguyod ng Filipino (Pasataf), this year's theme will be 'Enriching the Filipino Language for Effective Teaching in the New Curriculum." Teachers, members of various Filipino language organizations, Filipino professors / instructors and former members of Pasataf are also invited to participate in the event. The three-day affair was also organized by the Bureau of Elementary Education, Bureau of Secondary Education, Ched and the local government of Baguio City.

Exciting tour destinations

FOR THE past 8 years, the Clique Traveler has organized various tour destinations around the country with success. To enjoy your remaining summer days, join them as they go and visit exotic places filled with lots of fun and adventure to Dumaguete and Siquijor on May 15 to 18, Iloilo and Guimaras on May 22 to 25, Legaspi and Sorsogon on May 22 to 25, Banaue Highlands on May 29 to June 1 and Ilocos Heritage Tour on June 5 to 8. Call Clique Traveler in either Las Piñas at 873-5714 / 873-2440 / 873-5941. Quezon City at 741-6470/ 741-6480. Parañaque at 826-3974 / 825-9034.

P1 MILLION FOR SCHOOL GYM

Rev. Chiao Eit (2nd from right, seated), director of the Philippine Buddhacare Academy receives a P1 million donation from Dr. Lucio Tan (center), chair of the Tan Yan Kee Foundation Inc., for the construction of a multi-purpose gymnasium in the academy's compound in Quezon City. Present during the check turnover are academy officers including trustees of the Tan Yan Kee Foundation, which is the principal philanthropic arm of the Lucio Tan Group of Companies.

Alay-Lakad elects new officers at general assembly

FRANK Evaristo, civic leader, businessman and journalist has been reelected president of the Alay-Lakad Foundation Inc. during its 5th Annual General Assembly held at the Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Department of Education Complex Pasig City. Also elected officers from the members of the Board of Trustees are DepEd Secretary Edilberto De Jesus, vice president; Carlito Dimar, treasurer; DILG Secretary Joey Lina, assistant treasurer; and lawyer Joe Redoblado, corporate secretary. Also elected trustees for the next two years are: Rotary International District governors Rosie Go and Romy Cruz, Press Secretary Hernani Braganza, Pagcor chair Efraim Genuino, Girl Scouts of the Phils. national president Cynthia Zagala, and Kiwanis governor Arsenio Donesa. They will join DSWD Secretary Dinky Soliman, AFP Chief of Staff Narciso Abaya, PIA Director General Renato Velasco, PNP Chief Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., National Youth Commission chair Paolo Benigno Aquino IV, Lions governor Robert Roque Jr., YMCA of Manila president Judge Tingaraan Guiling, Philippine Jaycees national president lawyer Michael Alan Ranillo, Alay-Lakad 2003 chair Vice Mayor Willie Buenaventura of Pateros and individual members Milo Flores and Dr. Teruko Haga to the Alay-Lakad Board. This year's Alay-Lakad in September will be led by the Philippine Jaycees which is headed by its national president Michael Alan Ranillo.

ProductFILES

Greenwich Pizzadilla

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Bits & Clips

RMHC Charity Golf Tournament

MCDONALD'S social responsibility arm, the Ronald McDonald House of Charities (RMHC) proudly announces the holding of the 7th Annual RMHC Charity Golf Tournament today, at Sta. Elena Golf Club in Cabuyao, Laguna. Through this yearly event, RMHC raises funds for the RMHC Bahay Bulilit Day Care Center Program that aims to build day care centers all over the country in cooperation with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), local government units and deserving communities.

31st National Convention on Filipino Language set

THE DEPARTMENT of Education (DepEd) in cooperation with the Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino (KWF) will hold its 31st National Convention on Filipino Language on May 13 to 16 in Baguio City. To be headed by the Pambansang Samahan ng mga Tagamasid at Tagapagtaguyod ng Filipino (Pasataf), this year's theme will be 'Enriching the Filipino Language for Effective Teaching in the New Curriculum." Teachers, members of various Filipino language organizations, Filipino professors / instructors and former members of Pasataf are also invited to participate in the event. The three-day affair was also organized by the Bureau of Elementary Education, Bureau of Secondary Education, Ched and the local government of Baguio City.

Exciting tour destinations

FOR THE past 8 years, the Clique Traveler has organized various tour destinations around the country with success. To enjoy your remaining summer days, join them as they go and visit exotic places filled with lots of fun and adventure to Dumaguete and Siquijor on May 15 to 18, Iloilo and Guimaras on May 22 to 25, Legaspi and Sorsogon on May 22 to 25, Banaue Highlands on May 29 to June 1 and Ilocos Heritage Tour on June 5 to 8. Call Clique Traveler in either Las Piñas at 873-5714 / 873-2440 / 873-5941. Quezon City at 741-6470/ 741-6480. Parañaque at 826-3974 / 825-9034.

P1 MILLION FOR SCHOOL GYM

Rev. Chiao Eit (2nd from right, seated), director of the Philippine Buddhacare Academy receives a P1 million donation from Dr. Lucio Tan (center), chair of the Tan Yan Kee Foundation Inc., for the construction of a multi-purpose gymnasium in the academy's compound in Quezon City. Present during the check turnover are academy officers including trustees of the Tan Yan Kee Foundation, which is the principal philanthropic arm of the Lucio Tan Group of Companies.

Alay-Lakad elects new officers at general assembly

FRANK Evaristo, civic leader, businessman and journalist has been reelected president of the Alay-Lakad Foundation Inc. during its 5th Annual General Assembly held at the Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Department of Education Complex Pasig City. Also elected officers from the members of the Board of Trustees are DepEd Secretary Edilberto De Jesus, vice president; Carlito Dimar, treasurer; DILG Secretary Joey Lina, assistant treasurer; and lawyer Joe Redoblado, corporate secretary. Also elected trustees for the next two years are: Rotary International District governors Rosie Go and Romy Cruz, Press Secretary Hernani Braganza, Pagcor chair Efraim Genuino, Girl Scouts of the Phils. national president Cynthia Zagala, and Kiwanis governor Arsenio Donesa. They will join DSWD Secretary Dinky Soliman, AFP Chief of Staff Narciso Abaya, PIA Director General Renato Velasco, PNP Chief Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., National Youth Commission chair Paolo Benigno Aquino IV, Lions governor Robert Roque Jr., YMCA of Manila president Judge Tingaraan Guiling, Philippine Jaycees national president lawyer Michael Alan Ranillo, Alay-Lakad 2003 chair Vice Mayor Willie Buenaventura of Pateros and individual members Milo Flores and Dr. Teruko Haga to the Alay-Lakad Board. This year's Alay-Lakad in September will be led by the Philippine Jaycees which is headed by its national president Michael Alan Ranillo.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Wanted: Insurance for the disabled elderly

By Reynaldo A. de Dios
Contributor

THERE is an irreversible trend in the aging of the world's population.

A study in 2001 disclosed that approximately 12.5 percent of the population in the United States were over 65. In Asia (excluding Japan), the figure is 5.5 percent. In the Philippines, roughly 5.4 percent or 4.05 million of the 70 million Filipinos are 60 and above.

A recent study by the Population Division of the United Nations projected that the senior citizens would account for 21 percent of the world's population by 2050.

Increased longevity or living longer means that more people will be afflicted by mental and physical disabilities that accompany the aging process. Many of these senior citizens would be unable to perform the normal activities of daily living.

While the Filipino tradition of caring for aging parents is commonly practiced, even the most devoted children are oftentimes unable to give sufficient time, attention and the means to care for elderly relatives.

Health insurance plans generally do not pay for the services of nurses and professional caregivers, which are very costly.

What is needed then is a special long-term care insurance which pays for services and support to help policyholders who are unable to perform certain activities of daily living such as bathing, dressing and feeding.

This insurance also pays benefits when the policyholders require supervision due to a cognitive impairment such as Alzheimer's disease. It further covers daily visits by a caregiver to help with household chores, daily cooking or assistance with hygiene. Or it can involve skilled around-the-clock care in a nursing home.

Long-term care differs from the medical care received in a hospital which are usually covered by private or government health insurance schemes.

Long-term care insurance was first introduced in the United States in the early 90s and is now available in the United Kingdom, France, Canada, Israel, Japan, Argentina and just last year in Singapore.

Below are some of the major features of long term care insurance:

1. Benefits are payable when the insured is unable to perform at least three of the activities of daily living.

2. There is an optional waiting period of 30 days, 90 days or even six-months which is known as a deductible before the policy starts paying the benefit usually a fixed monetary amount per day or per month.

3. Premium rates vary depending on the type of services covered (care at home or a facility), amount of daily benefit; length of waiting period for the benefits to begin and duration of coverage.

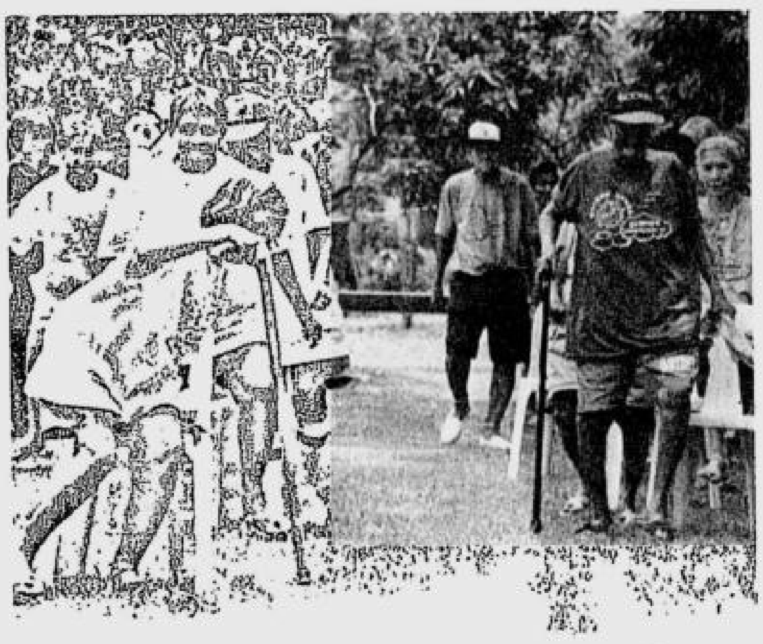
4. Age of the policyholder at time of purchase. The younger the age, the lower the premium rate.

In the United States, premiums for long term care insurance and out-of-pocket expenses are deductible from federal income tax if the costs exceed the tax code's 7.5 percent base for medical expenses deductions.

At present it appears that the Philippine life insurance sector does not carry long term care insurance among its products.

While the primary objectives of life insurance are to meet the risk of premature death and to build up funds for retirement, long term care insurance instead is a preparation for the expenses that will be incurred if the insured lives too long and becomes a disabled elderly.

Thus, the retirement savings will be protected and not used for the expenses of caregivers or nursing homes. There is certainly a market for this class of insurance as it will serve the needs of the country's aging population.



THERE is a market for insurance products that serve the elderly.

Fund firms . . .

From page B2-1

Hampshire state retirement system.

Funds also are getting tougher with companies because, like many investors, they are also angry over corporate scandals that have driven down stock prices, said Russel Kinnel, director of fund analysis at research firm Morningstar Inc.

"There probably is a little more activism and impatience with management, just as there is with individual investors and pension funds," he said. *Reuters*

Drug firm . . .

From page B2-8

star and philanthropist Vince Hizon. The three are seemingly diverse individuals but nevertheless have one thing in common—the love for reading.

To reach a wider audience, a monthly ReadShow was held in leading malls, showcasing a talk show wherein leaders from various fields—government, sports, education, entertainment, etc.—talked about their favorite books, their love for reading, the impact of reading in their work or their lives.

In lieu of talent fees or honoraria, books were donated to various public high schools all over the country including in Mindanao.

"With Read to Lead, it is Pfizer's hope that the youth will be inspired to take up the habit of reading and, hopefully, turn out to be competent and effective leaders in various fields in the future", according to Cooey Lao, General Manager of Pfizer's Consumer Health Care Division.

Recognition for outstanding programs

During the recent 38th Annual Anvil Awards organized by the Public Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP), Pfizer's Leaders for Health and Read to Lead programs were honored as exemplary PR programs clearly identified with the public interest and recognized as having lasting impact and value.

Leaders for Health was given the Anvil Award of Merit for Public Affairs Management and communications category.

Read to Lead on the other hand, won an Anvil Award of Excellence for PR in support of marketing category. It also went on to win the top award of them all—the Grand Anvil, the highest and most-coveted recognition in the awards program.

"The awards are a bonus. It is the impact that these programs have on people that inspires Pfizer to continue what it has began in creating more venues that will contribute to the development of more leaders, leaders who will help build organizations and our country in the coming years," Villanueva adds.

PFIZER's Anvil Awards: Anvil Award of Excellence and the Grand Anvil for Read to Lead and the Anvil Award of Merit for the Leaders for Health Project.

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Drug firm develops leaders for country's future

ANVIL officials proudly receive the Anvil Awards for their corporate responsibility projects

RUNNING a business has never been more complex. Competition is stiffer and technologies change every few months. Before you know it, equipment and methods have become obsolete. Thus, words like innovation, strategic partnerships and customer focus have become buzzwords in the workplace.

Organizations are undeniably faced with a lot of threats and challenges, but we have also seen the emergence of numerous new and exciting opportunities. And this is where good leadership becomes vital.

There is no question about the positive value of technology in any organization but there is no substitute for good leadership. An organization with leaders who possess vision, creativity and efficiency, who can seize opportunities and effectively battle threats, will always have an edge over others.

Among the companies that rank the value of leadership high on its roster of core values is Pfizer, a global pharmaceutical company that discovers and develops medicine to cure many of the major diseases and ailments facing the world today.

"Developing and enhancing the leadership skills and capabilities of our employees has been the focus of many of our corporate programs because we believe in building home-grown leaders at all levels.," says Karen Villanueva, Corporate Affairs Director of Pfizer.

"These are the people who will help propel the company to achieve its goals and will lead the company in the coming years", adds Villanueva.

Pfizer recently teamed up with the Asian Institute of Management to promote mentoring within the organization through its Pfizer Business Leadership Program. The program aims to prepare managers for the challenges of the future by empowering them to lead.

Recognizing the need for stronger leaders for our country, both in government and the private sector and following the philosophy of people empowerment, two programs were implemented last year as part of Pfizer's commitment to corporate social responsibility.

These are the Leaders for Health Project and Read to Lead, both of which aim to help mold Filipino leaders who can make positive contributions to the country today and in the future.

Leaders for Health

The Leaders for Health Project (LHP) was launched in August 2002 in partnership with the Department of Health and the Ateneo Graduate School of Business (AGSB), to address the healthcare problems that plague the countryside.

"We were appalled to learn that out of close to a population of 80 million, 40 percent of Filipinos go though life and die without ever seeing a doctor," said Gerry Bacarro, Pfizer President and Country Manager. "We knew we had to do something."

The main goal of the project is to contribute to the development of competent and committed leaders who will provide strategic and effective leadership of the healthcare sector on various levels.

It seeks to broaden the mindset of people about health being just the responsibility of a doctor and make them realize the need to include the community composed of other key stakeholders in health—the local government and the people's organizations.

LHP builds on the initial successes of the Doctors to the Barrios program, where doctors are fielded to 5th and 6th class municipalities. During their stay in the barrios, the doctors will earn a masters degree in Healthcare Management from the AGSB.

Because no program can succeed without the help of the stakeholders, a separate but parallel track composed of Capacity Enhancement Workshops for mayors and local community leaders has also been developed.

Since they are not the traditional healthcare leaders, the seminars will provide them with knowledge and skills necessary to build and strengthen their community's healthcare systems.

Another component of the project is the renovation of the DOH Doctor to the Barrios - Pfizer Training and Learning Center at the DOH Compound in Tayuman, Manila. The upgraded center was inaugurated in July 2002 and it now houses a virtual library and training facilities to give the doctors a venue to receive training, conduct research and communicate faster with various DOH offices.

LHP has benefited 20 municipalities around the country—in Surigao del Norte, Western Samar, Biliran and Camarines Sur. Many of these beneficiaries had never seen a doctor in their life prior to the program's implementation.

Bacarro added, "The goals of this project may seem like a tall order and it will definitely take a long time before people change their mindsets about their role in healthcare. But with the new kind of empowerment given to the volunteer doctors and local community leaders, we are optimistic that we will see positive changes in the healthcare situations in the communities in a few years. Pfizer is committed to seeing this through."

Read to Lead

Another project aimed at helping develop future leaders for our country is Read to Lead. A reading advocacy campaign created by Visine, one of Pfizer's leading Consumer healthcare products, it is a response to recent studies that show a great decline in reading, especially among the youth.

Today's youth would rather watch TV, play computer games and go to the mall or exchange text messages. Because of this, the younger Filipinos have become less literate, less able to communicate verbally or in writing, and generally less capable than they would have been if they read more.

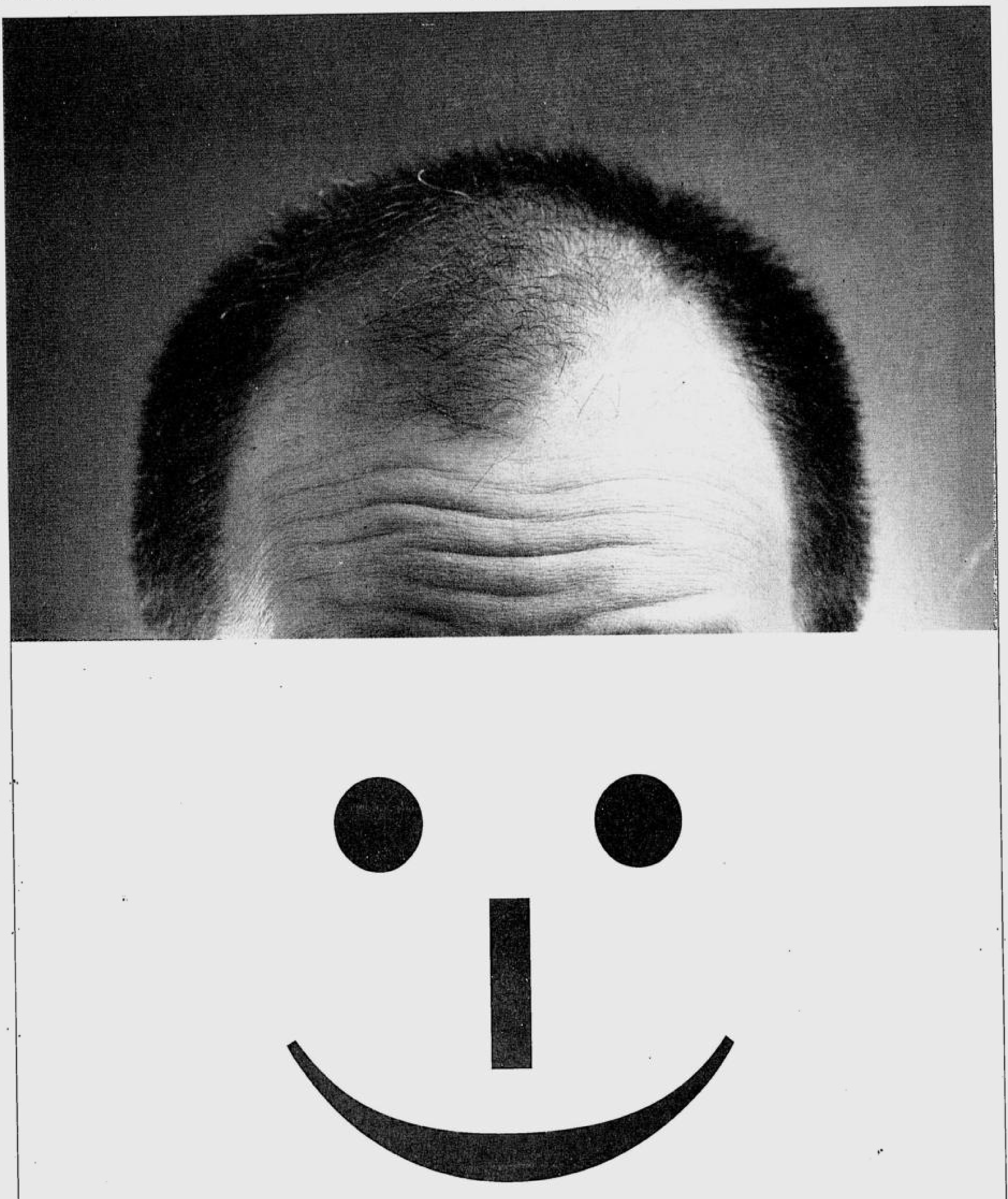
Visine, thus created Read to Lead in partnership with National Book Store and Powerbooks to encourage the youth to rediscover the joys of reading, learn from it and become intelligent and capable leaders of our country in the future.

It enlisted the support of organizations such as the Reading Association of the Philippines and the Eye Health & Safety Foundation, an agency mandated by the Department of Health to promote learning through proper eye care.

Book publishers Scholastic Books, Simon and Schuster, Harper Collins and Random House were only too happy to throw their support behind the project. Even the country's leading drugstore chains, Mercury Drug and Watsons came on board along with the Philippine Daily Inquirer and the Manila Bulletin, which served as the media partners.

Young and accomplished program endorsers were chosen—National Youth Commission Chairman and TV host Bam Aquino, writer and model Lexi Schulze and basketball

DRUG/ B2-7



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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MONDAY, MAY 12, 2003

ENTERTAINMENT

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Louie C. Camino

MAN AND MACHINE. Keanu Reeves returns as Neo in a sequel that has much, much more to love.

'THE MATRIX RELOADED'

The war really begins

/C2

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YAN

Rico Yan leaves clean mark in schools

By Freda Veluz
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—If you notice clean toilets in public high schools when classes open in June, thank the late matinee actor Rico Yan.

The Rico Yan Youth Foundation, which implements the projects of the Rico Yan Youth Movement (RYYM), has launched Banyo—the Bagong Anyo, Bagong Banyo program—to provide public high schools with clean toilets and to improve hygiene and sanitation in the schools, according to Napoleon Almonte, RYYM executive director.

RYYM participated in the Youth for Environment Summer (Yes) Camp at the Teachers' Camp here last week.

Rico Yan was at the peak of his show biz ca-

RICO/ C6

JM GUIAO PUNZALAN

JOLINA MAGDANGAL and a favorite

Jolina keeps hot stuff in old ref

/C2

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SMITH X 100. Neo battles a hundred Agent Smith, played by Hugo Weaving.

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

'THE MATRIX RELOADED'

The war really begins

HOT FISHBURNE. The sequel is an excellent acting platform for Laurence Fishburne as Morpheus.

By Ruel S. De Vera

REVIEW

"YOU take the red pill, you stay in Wonderland and I show you how deep the rabbit hole goes." With these words, revolutionary Morpheus (Laurence Fishburne) initiates Neo (Keanu Reeves) and audiences all over the real world into the bullet-timing world of "The Matrix." With a sleek, bleakly irresistible vision of the future from directors/writers Larry and Andy Wachowski and stunning new movie-making technology, 1999's "The Matrix" changed actions movies—and cell phones—forever, spawning a whole new sub-culture. It wasn't just a movie. It was a revolution on screen.

After four years, the Wachowski brothers are back and they make it clear from the very beginning of "The Matrix Reloaded" that the first movie really is just the beginning of an ambitious trilogy. That first movie was clearly the first shot, a mere skirmish in the two-front battle between humans and machines. Now the war really begins.

Immediately following the events of the fantastic animated short film "The Final Flight of the Osiris," "Reloaded" depicts Morpheus, Neo and Trinity (Carrie-Anne Moss) continuing their battle to free humans from the virtual cage of The Matrix and the control of the sinister Agents. Now swarms of insectoid Sentinels are burrowing towards Zion, the last free human city deep underground, and time is running out for the revolutionaries.

Morpheus believes the only way the humans can win is for Neo to fulfill the prophecy as The One, forecast by the mysterious Oracle (the late Gloria Foster). To do that, they must find the captured Keymaker (Randall Duk Kim) and journey deep into the dark heart of the Matrix itself. And they must do it before the Sentinels arrive. Before Zion falls.

More talk

It seems almost bizarre to say this, but "Reloaded" dwarfs "The Matrix" with the tableau that it sets up. There is much, much more to love in "Reloaded." The landscape expands, moving to unseen parts of the Matrix but also locating itself in the barren desert of the Real World.

Bringing to life the dark designs of Geof Darrow, the Wachowskis unveil the subterranean enclave of Zion, the length and breadth of the human resistance, from the innocent children to the stressed commanders.

"Reloaded" also expands on the ideological and philosophical debate of "The Matrix": the "there is no spoon" talk, a massive binary code that combines Far Eastern spirituality with Western thought and pop psychology.

If you thought there was a lot of talking in the first movie, there is actually more in "Reloaded," and if you got lost in the dialogue then, you will drown in it now.

At its essence, "Reloaded" is a movie about identity (man versus machine) and choice (free will versus destiny). As one character intones, "choice is an illusion created between those with power and those without."

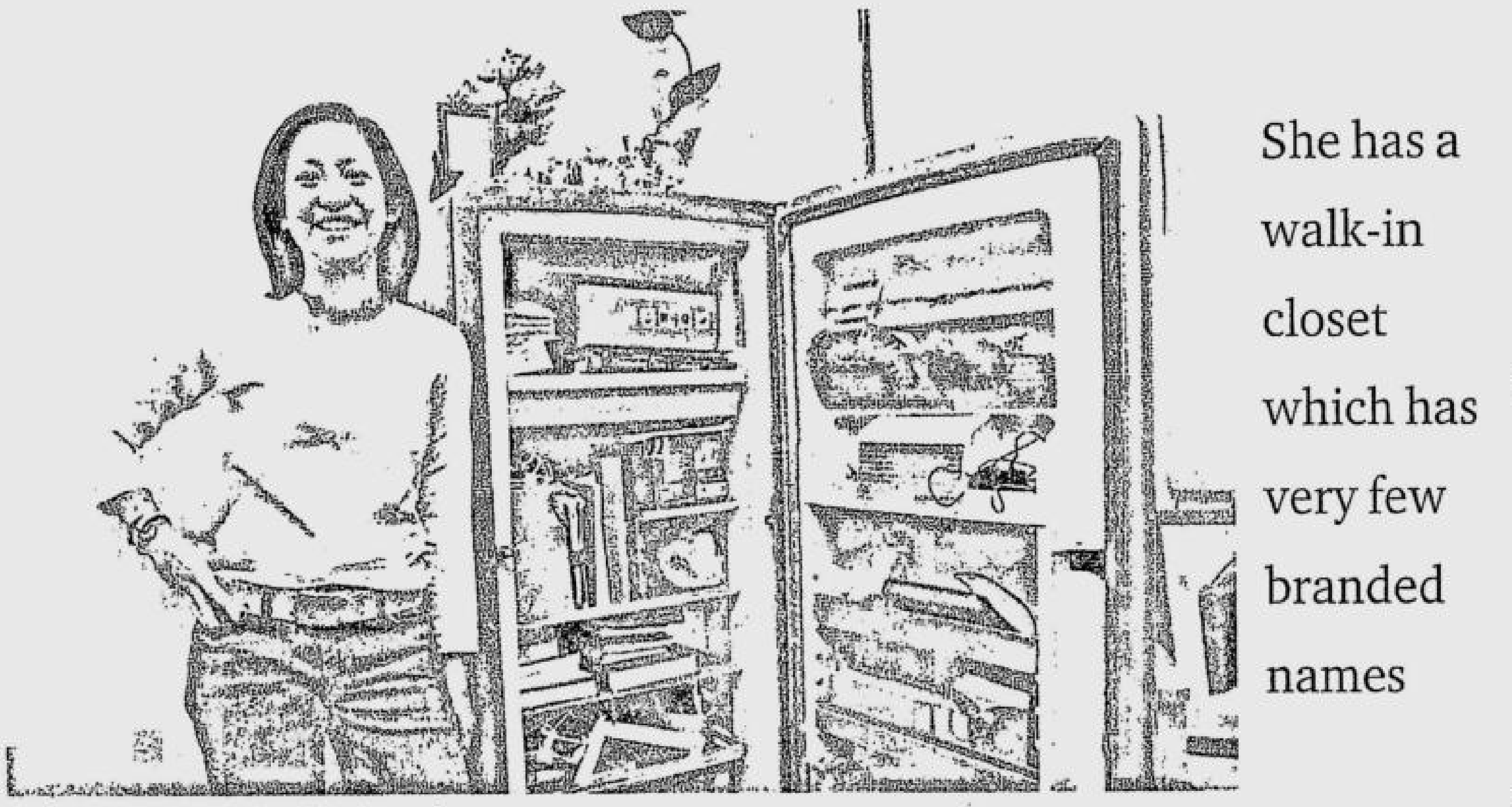
There are also many new, notably compelling characters introduced. There's the foppish but dangerous Merovingian (Lambert Wilson), the seductive Persephone (Monica Belluci) and the Nebuchadnezzar's new operator Link (Harold Perrineau).

But the most arresting characters are the ghostly henchmen merely called The Twins (martial arts experts Neil and Adrian Rayment) and the grimly determined captain Niobe (Jada Pinkett Smith, in a fierce performance), who also happens to be Morpheus' former lover. And let us not forget the returning Agent Smith (Hugo Weaving), thought deleted in "The Matrix." He returns, much more aware and more dangerous than ever.

But aside from unfolding the Matrix's riddle like a delicate, intricate puzzle, "Reloaded" also unfurls the Matrix's dangers like a coiled rattlesnake. The action scenes in "The Matrix" were really good. The action scenes in "Reloaded" blow those scenes to bits.

If anything, the Wachowskis seem to have put together all the conventions in action movies (chase scenes, hand-to-hand combat, etc.) and then decided to redefine them with that distinct Matrix touch, and a bolt of screen magic from Oscar-winning visual arts maestro John Gaeta. In fact, "Reloaded" seems to be equal

THE WAR/ C7



COOL! The ref belonged to Jolina's grandma.

She has a walk-in closet which has very few branded names

LONG ON SHORTS. Her favorite bedtime wear is this pair of huge boxers.

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Jolina keeps her hot stuff in an old ref

By Leah Salterio

OUT OF THE CLOSET

JOLINA Magdangal's favorite part of the house is her bedroom.

When she doesn't have any show biz engagements, which is rare, she prefers to sleep all day in her bedroom, play her favorite CDs, or surf the 'Net.'

"I wake up late then I eat," Jolina says. "If I'm sleepy again, I go back to sleep. If not, I watch TV or mix and match my clothes..I also draw and think of new styles for my boutique, although I'm not really good at drawing or designing. I also read teen magazines like Seventeen."

The 24-year-old singer/actress/trendsetter sleeps on a four-poster bed decked with small, colorful lanterns which she bought in San Francisco. On the wall over the headboard are enlarged photos of herself as a kid.

On the floor between the bed and the TV set is a huge bean bag, where Jolina sits when she wants to pray before her makeshift altar, which has an image of St. Therese, holy water from Manaoag and a framed Virgin Mary photo given by entertainment columnist and TV host Ricky Lo.

"Tito Ricky told me the cheekbones of Mama Mary look like mine," Jolina shares.

The biggest attention grabber in Jolina's bedroom is an old, olive-green refrigerator which she has turned into a cabinet for her knick-knacks. The ref was owned by her maternal grandmother.

"I plan to paint it with flowers but I just don't have the time now," Jolina says.

She has a walk-in closet which has very few branded names. She swears she hardly buys signature clothes, preferring comfortable clothes.

"*Basta bagay sa 'kin at okay ang kulay,*" she says. "I buy my own clothes. I go shopping with my mom at Robinson's Galleria or SM Megamall. But when it's time to pay, I let my mom (Paulette Magdangal) do it. I don't want to see money slipping from my hands. I'm a little thrifty, but I'm not *kuripot.*"

Jolina's casual clothes and most of her daily getups are in her walk-in closet, while her old clothes, gowns, shoes and costumes for film and TV are neatly stocked in a room in the basement. Huge Tupperware containers hold her clothes for film and TV.

"When they tell me I need to bring clothes *na pang-mahirap,* I know where to get them," Jolina says. "When I'm taping or shooting, I bring hundreds of earrings, headbands, clips and ribbons to the set so that the director and the costume designer won't have a hard time thinking of what I have to wear."

Jolina models Brat Girl shirts, which she will use in her new soap on GMA 7, where she will star with James Blanco and Raymart Santiago. She will soon wrap up her role in the Sunday afternoon series, "Kahit Kailan."

She is also filming a new version of "Annie Batungbacal," which originally starred Nora Aunor.

JOLINA/ C7

SHELF LIFE. Jolina prefers comfortable clothes even when they're not designer wear

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3 BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 3 X-MEN 2 11 10, 2 00 4 50 7 40 10 30	ACOUSTIC NIGHT OUT FEAT. SIDE A May 16, 17, 30 & 31	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 PINOCCHIO 12 30, 3 00, 5 30, 8:00, 10:30	3 X-MEN 2
4 X-MEN 2	4 25TH HOUR		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 CONFESSIONS OF A DANGEROUS MIND 2 00 4 20 6 40 9 00 11 20	CONFESSIONS OF A DANGEROUS MIND
	5 JOHNNY ENGLISH		GUARANTEED SEATS 5 X-MEN 2 2.45 5 40, 8 35, 11 30	5 TILL THERE WAS YOU
	6 X-MEN 2			
	7 TILL THERE WAS YOU			

For sreening times, call 729-7777. Movies are subject to change without prior notice. Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 and send to 2333. Or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

MMTA

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MOVIE GUIDE

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EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DOLBY)	JOHNNY ENGLISH
2 (SDDS)	PINOCCHIO
3 (DTS)	SO CLOSE (SNEAK PREVIEW)
4	X-MEN-2
5	CONFESSION OF A DANGEROUS MIND
6	BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE
7	X-MEN-2
8	TILL THERE WAS YOU
9	TILL THERE WAS YOU
10	XEREX

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE
3 (DTS)	RESERVE
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6 (DTS)	RESERVE
Golden Pearl THX	RESERVE

Masagana CINEMA 1 2 & 3
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1	TILL THERE WAS YOU
2	X-MEN-2
3	BAYARAN

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph (Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986

1	TILL THERE WAS YOU
2	XEREX
3	CONFESSION OF A DANGEROUS MIND
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX)	X-MEN-2
5	BAYARAN

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph (Alabang) tel 850.4285

1	BAYARAN
2	XEREX
3	X-MEN-2
4	TILL THERE WAS YOU
5	CONFESSION OF A DANGEROUS MIND
6	BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE

M star
www.clickthecity.com.ph (Las Pinas) tel 873.5004

1	X-MEN-2
2	TILL THERE WAS YOU

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) TEL. 8934225, 8922503

X-MEN-2

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	ANGER MANAGEMENT
2	WHAT A GIRL WANTS

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL INC.
tel 930.9515

1	
2	BAYARAN
3	

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc.-3376

1	X-MEN-2
2	TILL THERE WAS YOU
3	BAYARAN
4	

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

3	CONFESSION OF A DANGEROUSE MIND
4	BAYARAN
5	XEREX
6	TILL THERE WAS YOU
7 (DTS)	X-MEN-2
8 (SDDS)	BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE
9 (DOLBY)	SO CLOSE (SNEAK PREVIEW)

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 365.7928

1	XEREX
2	TILL THERE WAS YOU
3	TILL THERE WAS YOU
4 (SDDS)	X-MEN-2
5	BAYARAN
6 (DOLBY)	SO CLOSE (SNEAK PREVIEW)
7 (DTS)	BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE
8	X-MEN 2
9	BOLD STAR

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0082

1	BAYARAN
2 (SDDS)	SO CLOSE (SNEAK PREVIEW)
3 (DTS)	X-MEN-2
4 (DOLBY)	BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE
5	TILL THERE WAS YOU

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	TILL THERE WAS YOU
2	XEREX
3	CONFESSION OF A DANGEROUSE MIND
4	BAYARAN
5 (SDDS)	X-MEN-2

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	BAYARAN

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	BAYARAN

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	
Lords	
Jennet	RESERVE

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	X-MEN-2
2	TILL THERE WAS YOU
3	BAYARAN
4	RESERVE

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	X-MEN-2
2	XEREX
3	BAYARAN
4	TILL THERE WAS YOU
5	CONFESSION OF A DANGEROUSE MIND

FRC Cinema
(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)

1	
2	

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1	TILL THERE WAS YOU
2	X-MEN-2

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT
Araneta

MALL CINEPLEX 7
tel 911.3101 loc. 821,8242,8400

1	XEREX
2	TILL THERE WAS YOU
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE
4 (SDDS)	SO CLOSE (SNEAK PREVIEW)
5	CONFESSION OF A DANGEROUSE MIND
6	BAYARAN
7	JOHNNY ENGLISH

FarmersPlaza CINEMAS
tel 911.3101 loc. 821,8242,8400

1	X-MEN-2
2	XEREX

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna) TEL. (049) 837-0926

1	BAYARAN
2	TILL THERE WAS YOU
3 (DTS)	X-MEN-2

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	A MAN APART
2 (DTS)	TILL THERE WAS YOU
3 (DOLBY)	X-MEN-2
4	BAYARAN

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	TILL THERE WAS YOU
2 (DOLBY)	A MAN APART
3 (DTS)	X-MEN-2
4	BAYARAN

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	WILLARD
2	XEREX
3 (DOLBY)	EQUILIBRIUM
4	

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1	XEREX
2	TILL THERE WAS YOU
3 (DOLBY)	KANGAROO JACK
4 (DTS)	X-MEN-2

Magic Star Cinema
(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305

1 (DOLBY)	X-MEN-2
2 (DTS)	TILL THERE WAS YOU
3	XEREX

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	BAYARAN
2	BOLDO STAR
3 (DTS)	TILL THERE WAS YOU
4	X-MEN-2

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	A MAN APART
2	TILL THERE WAS YOU
3 (DTS)	X-MEN-2
4	BAYARAN
5	NATIONAL SECURITY

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	BAYARAN
2	TILL THERE WAS YOU
3	X-MEN-2

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249.2558

1	X-MEN-2
2	TILL THERE WAS YOU
3	BAYARAN

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1	JOHNNY ENGLISH
2	XEREX
3 (DTS)	TILL THERE WAS YOU
4 (DOLBY)	X-MEN-2

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	RESERVE
2 (SRS)	RESERVE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	BOLD STAR
2	TILL THERE WAS YOU
3	RESERVE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	XEREX
2	X-MEN-2
3	TILL THERE WAS YOU
4	JOHNNY ENGLISH

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045)887-5001 TO 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	EQUILIBRIUM
2	TILL THERE WAS YOU
3	X-MEN-2
4	XEREX

Cine Nepo Mall
(Angeles City) te (045) 887-0121

1	TILL THERE WAS YOU
2	A MAN APART
3 (DOLBY)	PHONE BOOTH
4	X-MEN-2

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FESTIVAL CINEMA
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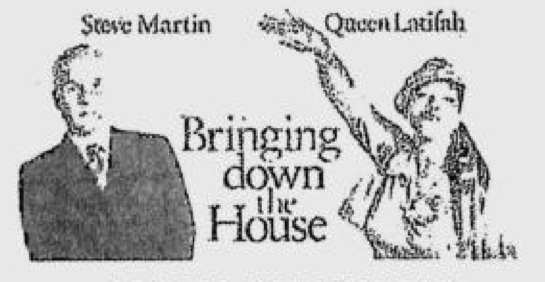
Festival Supermall
Filinvest - Alabang
Tel. 85035-71 to 72



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SM CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 833-9999

NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR
4173868

1	BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE
2	XEREX
3	X-MEN 2
4	TILL THERE WAS YOU
5	CONFESSIONS OF A ...
6	TILL THERE WAS YOU
7	BAYARAN
8	JOHNNY ENGLISH

SM CENTERPOINT
7149522 -7161416

1	TILL THERE WAS YOU
2	JOHNNY ENGLISH
3	X-MEN 2
4	XEREX
5	X-MEN 2
6	BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE
7	CONFESSIONS OF A ...
8	SOULKEEPER
9	BAYARAN
10	SO CLOSE

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1	SO CLOSE
2	JOHNNY ENGLISH
3	EQUILIBRIUM
4	X-MEN 2
5	A MAN APART
6	BAYARAN
7	CONFESSIONS OF A ...
8	TILL THERE WAS YOU
9	X-MEN 2
10	WHAT A GIRL WANTS
11	XEREX
12	BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1	BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE
2	SO CLOSE
3	CONFESSIONS OF A ...
4	X-MEN 2
5	SOULKEEPER
6	X-MEN 2
7	BAYARAN
8	PINOCCHIO
9	TILL THERE WAS YOU
10	JOHNNY ENGLISH
11	XEREX
12	TILL THERE WAS YOU

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401

1	X-MEN 2
2	SO CLOSE
3	X-MEN 2
4	CONFESSIONS OF A ...
5	JOHNNY ENNGLISH
6	BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE
7	BAYARAN
8	TILL THERE WAS YOU
9	SO CLOSE
10	PINOCCHIO
11	TILL THERE WAS YOU
12	XEREX

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1	BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE
2	X-MEN 2
3	XEREX
4	TILL THERE WAS YOU
5	JOHNNY ENGLISH
6	CONFESSIONS OF A ...
7	SO CLOSE
8	X-MEN 2

SM SOUTHMALL
8066888

1	SOULKEEPER
2	CONFESSIONS OF A ...
3	X-MEN 2
4	BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE
5	PINOCCHIO
6	X-MEN 2
7	TILL THERE WAS YOU
8	SO CLOSE
9	XEREX
10	BAYARAN

SM CITY CEBU
2313876

1	X-MEN 2
2	SOLARIS
3	ANGER MANAGEMENT
4	JAILBIRDS
5	XEREX
6	BAYARAN
7	TILL THERE WAS YOU
8	X-MEN 2

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1	JAILBIRDS
2	CLOSED
3	TILL THERE WAS YOU
4	KANGAROO JACK
5	X-MEN 2
6	ANGER MANAGEMENT
7	CLOSED
8	BAYARAN

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1	X-MEN 2
2	A MAN APART
3	RING 2
4	BAYARAN
5	PHONE BOOTH
6	TILL THERE WAS YOU

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1	BAYARAN
2	X-MEN 2
3	TILL THERE WAS YOU
4	CONFESSIONS OF A ...

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1	X-MEN 2
2	XEREX
3	TILL THERE WAS YOU
4	BAYARAN

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998

1	X-MEN 2
2	X-MEN 2
3	WISHMASTER 4
4	TILL THERE WAS YOU
5	ANGER MANAGEMENT
6	KANGAROO JACK

SM BICUTAN
776-3055

1	X-MEN 2
2	TILL THERE WAS YOU
3	BAYARAN
4	X-MEN 2

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
059-2804

1	SOLARIS
2	TILL THERE WAS YOU
3	ANGER MANAGEMENT
4	X-MEN 2

THE PODIUM CINEMA
18 ADB Avenue Ortigas Center Mandaluyong City
633-8976

1	BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE 11:40 FS/12:10 MF/2:20/4:30/6:40/8:50/ 10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:40 END
2	X2: X-MEN UNITED 11:10 FS/11:40 MF/2:30/5:20/8:10/ 10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/1:20 END

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Galleria 632- 9115- 16 / 633- 7641 loc. 279

THX	X-MEN2 12:30 LMF,3:30, 6:30, 9:30 LMF, 11:50 END
2	X-MEN2
3	BRINGGING DOWN THE HOUSE
4	PINOCCHIO
5	TILL THERE WAS YOU
6	CONFESSIONS DANGEROUS MIND
7	SOUL KEEPER
8	BAYARAN
9	XEREX
10	JOHNY ENGLISH

MATINEE PRICE: P90/THX cinema P75/level cinemas
Mon.- Fri. / 10am- 4pm (EXCEPT HOLIDAYS)

Ermita 536 -7809- 12

1	X-MEN 2
2	SOUL KEEPER
3	BAYARAN
4	BRINGGING DOWN THE HOUSE
5	PINOCCHIO
6	TILL THERE WAS YOU
7	CONFESSIONS DANGEROUD MIND

Metro East - Marcos hway 682- 8193 / 8280

1	BRINGGING DOWN THE HOUSE
2	X-MEN 2
3	XEREX
4	CONFESSIONS DANGEROUS MIND
5	X-MEN 2
6	TILL THERE WAS YOU
7	JOHNY ENGLISH
8	BAYARAN

Novaliches 935- 3229 - 30

1	X- MEN 2
2	BRINGGING DOWN THE HOUSE
3	XEREX
4	CONFESSIONS DANEROUS MIND
5	TILL THERE WAS YOU
6	JOHNY ENGLISH
7	ANGER MANAGEMENT
8	BAYARAN

Malabon Citisquare 288-0985 / 288-2575

1	XEREX
2	TILL THERE WAS YOU
3	X-MEN 2
4	BAYARAN

Star Mills- Sn. Fernando, Pamp. (045)875-1927 / (045)961-5270

1	X-MEN2
2	PHONE BOOTH
3	BAYARAN
4	TILL THERE WAS YOU
5	RING 2
6	A MAN APART

Imus 471- 8188 / 875- 3838

1	X-MEN 2
2	BRINGGING DOWN THE HOUSE
3	BAYARAN
4	CONFESSIONS DANGEROUS MIND
5	TILL THERE WAS YOU
6	XEREX

Sta. Rosa Laguna (049)837-0907

1	X- MEN 2
2	A MAN APART
3	BAYARAN
4	TILL THERE WAS YOU
5	XEREX

Bacolod 441- 0453 / 0459

1	X-MEN 2
2	TILL THERE WAS YOU
3	XEREX
4	ANGER MANAGEMENT
5	KANGAROO JACK
6	SHADOW OF THE VAMPIRE

Iloilo 336- 8077 - 78

1	X-MEN2
2	ANGER MANAGEMENT
3	KANGAROO JACK
4	TILL THERE WAS YOU
5	BAYARAN
6	JAIL BIRDS

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VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

HOST: Is it true that, with the starlets you feature on your show, you play favorites?

Guest: No, that's not true. I give chances to everybody, whatever or *kahit sino pa!*

(*Ano daw?*)

***

Host: Your artworks are so unique and beautiful!

Artist: Thank you.

Host: Can you teach me how to do it?

Co-host: *Naku, mahirap yata*—paper machine *'yan, e!*

(*Ay*, paper machine!)

***

Host: How can we solve the problem of corruption in this country?

Guest: Oh, that problem is so hard to solve. It's a tremendous huge!

(That big, huh?)

***

Host: Why didn't you agree to work with (name of actor)?

Guest: The truth? Frankly, I don't work with unprofessionals!

(Do tell!)

***

Host: Why don't you invite our viewers to your new restaurant?

Guest: Ok. Please come and visit our restaurant. The food is so good, it's good for you!

(Well—good!)

***

Host: Will you campaign for any candidate in the coming elections?

Guest: If I believe in his ability, why not? But only if. I'm proud *na di pa ako nagpagamit sa* anyone politicians!

(*Ay*, anyone politicians!)

***

Host: Do you have any advice for our new graduates this year?

Guest: Always live in the real world. If you keep on living in fantasy, you will wake up to find the world passes by.

(*O, palakpakan naman diyan!*)

***

Host: What is your wish for your friend on his birthday tomorrow?

Guest: Oh, he is already happy. With a seven-month-old baby on the way, what more can he and his girlfriend ask for?

(The baby in his girlfriend's womb is seven months old?)

***

Host: What's the latest on the summer storm?

Weather reporter: It seems to have changed its course. As a result, weather in this country has improved. But water conditions still remain rough.

Host: What do you mean by rough?

Weatherman: Rough meaning four meters high of the waves!

(Ah, so!)

Thai entrepreneur

ON TUESDAY, May 13, the National Geographic Channel's "Young Global Hotshots" focuses on **Choak Bulakul**, a "jack of all trades" from Thailand.

The 35-year-old entrepreneur is also a farmer and cowboy. In addition, he composes and records his own music. And he sheds light on three areas of particular interest regarding Thailand: the financial crisis of 1997, Buddhism, and the role of culture and tradition in modern Thai life.

'Ballistic'

THE ACTION film "Ballistic" is now on VHS and VCD. In the movie, NSA agent Server (**Lucy Liu**) and FBI agent Ecks (**Antonio Banderas**) are tasked to destroy each other in a fierce competition to obtain a microscopic and injectible deadly device.

However, there's more to their competition than meets the eye. When the rules change, they discover that they must trust each other in fighting their real enemy.

Viva Hot Babes

AT 9 p.m. on May 31, Casino Filipino in Parañaque presents "Viva Hot Babes in a Dream Concert." The Babes include **Andrea del Rosario, Maui Taylor, Katya Santos** and **Hazel Cabrera.**

The show will also be staged in Cebu in June, and in Angeles City in July.

'Best of OPTV'

"OPTV" (Overseas Pinoy Television) at 11 p.m. today on RPN-9 telecasts its "Best of OPTV" episode. Features are on seamen waiting for jobs on T.M. Kalaw; children separated from their OCW parents; benefits for overseas Pinoys, and **April Boy Regino** on his work experiences abroad.

DID YOU KNOW...

Raymart Santiago and **Claudine Barretto** were together Friday night at the Greenhills Theater Mall, where they watched the comedy "Bringing Down the House," starring **Steve Martin** and **Queen Latifah**. Raymart and Claudine were seen smoking together before going inside the theater. Then they bought snacks at the food stalls right beside the cinema. Two weeks ago, they were also spotted watching the back-to-back concert of **Nina** and **Kyla** at Ratsky's Morato.

Rico ...

From page C1

reer when he died in his sleep while vacationing in a Palawan resort in March 2002. Shortly after his death, his family and friends set up the RYYF.

Almonte said the Banyo program will be initially implemented in Metro Manila. He said the RYYM chose to focus on toilets because the conditions of these facilities in public high schools are "deplorable."

"The educational environment affects the learning process and the quality of the environment is a determining factor in quality education," he said.

Almonte said dirty toilets are health hazards and make students prone to urinary tract infections, hepatitis and amoebiasis. Foul odor from dirty toilets also makes it difficult for students to concentrate.

Almonte said the RYYM is also implementing the Marangal program and the Kabuhayan project for the youth.

The Marangal program, which starts next months, aims to instill good moral values and proper conduct among the youth through trained facilitators. The Kabuhayan project will give jobs to selected youth.

The late actor's mother, Teresita Yan, who is also RYYF president, said: "We would like to see students become principled leaders."

MATRIX RELOADED

3 DAYS TO GO

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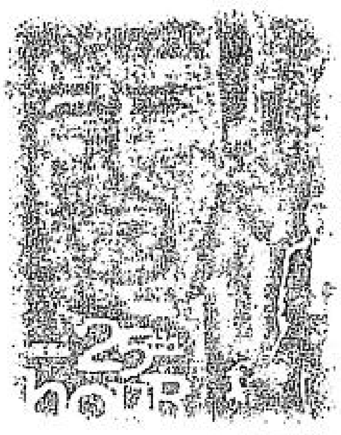
OPENS ON MAY 15 AT

AYALA CINEMAS

MTRCB Rating:Restricted 13 (R-13)



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A SPIKE LEE FILM

25th houR

edward norton
barry pepper
rosario dawson
philip seymour hoffman
anna paquin
brian cox

The 25th Hour depicts the last day of freedom for a young man before he begins serving a seven-year jail term for drug dealing. Prowling through the city until dawn with his two close male friends and his girlfriend, he is forced to re-examine his life and how he got himself into his predicament, which leads to a shocking, disturbing finale.

"A superb film."
– Michael Wilmington, CHICAGO TRIBUNE

"...the first great 21st century movie about a 21st century subject"
– Mick LaSalle, SAN FRANSISCO CHRONICLE

"Lee has created that rarity in filmmaking: a movie we need, right now."
– Ann Hornaday, WASHINGTON POST

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NOKIA INQUIRER

MTRCB Rating: Restricted 13 (R-13)

MTRCB R-13

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KAREN MOK SHU QI ZHAO WEI
夕陽天使
so close
www.so-close.com

Strictly for 13 years of age and up

Sexy Asian angels display amazing martial arts techniques in 'So Close'

Lynn (Shu Qi) and Sue (Zhao Wei) are sexy and beautiful sisters whose parents were brutally killed by powerful underworld figures. Disillusioned with the law and armed with amazing computer and kung fu skills (not to mention an enviable fashion style), the seductive sisters become professional assassins, killing criminals for other criminals.

Gutsy and brilliant female cop Yat Hong (Karen Mok) relentlessly pursue the sisters, who are in turn fascinated by their tough adversary.

SO CLOSE, starring Asia's most alluring and talented young actresses, features the coolest, breath-taking martial arts sequences from world-renowned director Cory Yuen, Jet Li's martial arts choreographer in THE ONE, KISS OF THE DRAGON and ROMEO MUST DIE. Don't miss it!

Special advance showings May 12&13

OPENS MAY 21 AT A THEATRE NEAR YOU

AYALA CINEMAS present THE SPECIAL ADVANCE SCREENINGS OF

so close

Looks can be deceiving.

starring Karen Mok, Shu Qi & Zhaq Wei

GLORIETTA 4
GREENBELT 3
ALABANG TOWN CENTER

May 12 (Mon.) & 13 (Tue.)

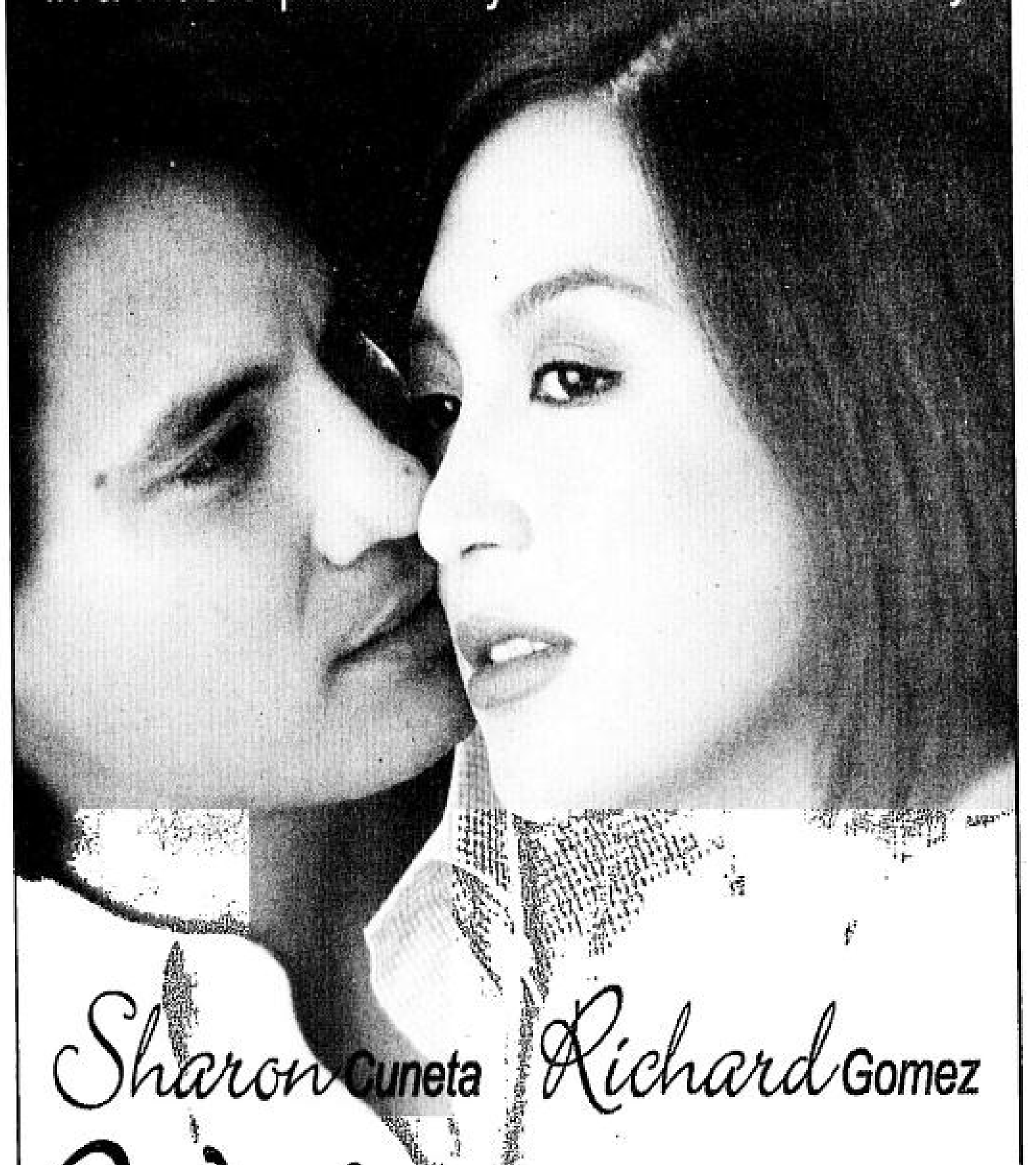
MTRCB Rating: Restricted 13 (R-13)

For more information, pls. call 752-7880 or 82 (Glorietta 4), 757-3860 to 62 (Greenbelt 3) or 850-8931 (Alabang Town Center).

夕陽天使
so close

THE MEGA MOVIE EVENT OF THE YEAR!

The country's biggest stars come together in a masterpiece story about love and family.



Sharon Cuneta Richard Gomez

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Directed by JOEL C. LAMANGAN dgpi

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Jolina keeps her hot stuff in old ref

From page C2

"I was supposed to do it with Nora, to be called 'Anak ni Annie Batungbacal,'" Jolina offers. "But she didn't have time to do the movie, so Viva let me do it without her."

Jolina says she splurges on CDs. Her mommy swears that one visit alone to the Music One store in National Bookstore in Quezon Avenue could cost Jolina P5,000.

"I like listening to CDs," Jolina says. "When I go to a shooting or taping, I carry around 50 CDs in my bag. I listen to all kinds of music, from soul to new wave to Barbara Streisand."

She also collects cell phones and has 13 units to date. She has given away some phones, while others were lost by people who had borrowed them.

Favorite perfume: "Any vanilla-scented cologne, Kenzo, D&G Light Blue and Ralph Lauren Blue.

Favorite getup: "White shirt, denims and rubber shoes."

Favorite footwear: "My size 4 and 1/2 Nine West boots, my white strappy sandals, black stiletto heels and Salomon rubber shoes."

Favorite sleepwear: "Pink Powerpuff Girls boxers and any white shirt or tank top."

Favorite casual dress: "Tube denims from YRYS."

Favorite gown: "A pink and fuschia spaghetti strap, which I wore in my GMA 7 Christmas special last December. It was made by Joel Bautista. For my gowns, I also go to Edwin Uy, Larry Espinosa and my cousin Dino Cosio."

LITTLE MISS THRIFTY. When it's time to pay when she's shopping, Jolina lets her mom do the paying.

Favorite hat: "A knit beige and black which can be matched with any casual getup."

Favorite bag: "I love Louis Vuitton. Every time I go abroad, I make it a point to buy at least one."

Favorite cell phone: "Sony Erickson P800 because it's multi-functional. It has a phone and can also be used as a Palm pilot which is compatible with my computer."

The war really begins

NEO flies.

From page C2

parts movie and videogame.

Fight scenes amped up

The centerpiece of "Reloaded" is clearly the massive freeway chase. "You always told me to stay off the freeway," Trinity urgently says. "You told me it was suicide." Cameras seemingly swoop down on characters or swing wide under trucks. Cadillacs dart like marionettes on the road. Ducatis dance in a wild ballet of destruction. You have never seen anything like it.

Under the command of choreographer Yuen Wo Ping ("Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon"), the fight scenes are even more elaborate, amped up almost to the point of overkill. The Twins just never stop coming in a very telegenic pursuit, every single weapon is used, and Trinity fights without surrender.

True, the fight scenes seem gratuitous at times, but they remain invigorating eye candy. Perhaps the most gratuitous yet enjoyable fight scene is Neo's brawl with over a hundred Agent Smiths. It's so over-the-top it's almost funny.

While Neo continues to grow in strength and awareness (indeed, his "superman thing," as Link calls it, shows that the real superhero is already in town), "Reloaded" is actually more about transformations by Morpheus (regarding his beliefs) and Trinity (regarding her feelings for Neo).

"Reloaded" is an excellent acting platform for Fishburne and Moss, in particular. Trinity, in trademark cat suit, of course, is a crucial player in the movie's central gambit of choice, as well as a combatant in a rousing free-fall gun battle.

Better sequel

Owing to the movie's overloaded mind games, the talky "Reloaded's" program visibly slows down when characters stop to talk and explain key plot points. And while the visit to Zion gives viewers important perspective and dramatic counterpoints, the feverish dance number looks like the longest, most expensive Coca-Cola commercial ever made.

Despite those minor glitches, "Reloaded" is a precise, effective and perfectly-fitted middle piece in the Matrix puzzle. Propelled by Don Davis' score and other fabulously loud songs, "Reloaded" is yet another better-made, darker sequel to an important first act, just like "The Empire Strikes Back" and "The Two Towers."

As "Reloaded" extrapolates the nature of the Matrix, stunning revelations abound as distinctions between man and machine blur, as does the line between ally and enemy. The scene alone where Neo meets the Architect (Helmut Bakaitis) will totally change what you know about Neo and the Matrix. The battle for freedom turns into a battle for survival and only Neo really knows what's going on. Or does he?

No turning back

Be warned: "Reloaded" keeps loading brilliant new stuff but then suddenly pulls the plug at the very end. Simply put, the Wachowski's conclusion to this second act will leave you cold.

By the end of "Reloaded," it becomes abundantly clear just how high the stakes have risen. It's also clear the last movie is nothing like what we expect. In a grand meshing of tragedy, betrayal and heroism, the revolutionaries of "Reloaded" are left just like the audience viewers will be at the movie's end: overwhelmed, amazed and hopelessly, breathlessly awaiting the answers to the questions in perhaps the action movie of action movies, November's "The Matrix Revolutions." It won't come a moment too soon.

It started with "The Matrix" and continues here. There's no going back. With "The Matrix Reloaded," the war comes to you. "What if tomorrow this war could be over," Morpheus asks. "Isn't that worth fighting for? Isn't that worth dying for?"

As this movie makes it digitally clear, yes, it is. Now, press enter --and let's go.

"The Matrix Reloaded" opens May 15 in local theaters.

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X-MEN 2 P13 1:40,4:30, 7:20,10:10	PINOCCHIO GP 12:10,2:30,4:50, 7:10,9:30	SO CLOSE P13 12:40,3:00,5:20, 7:40,10:00

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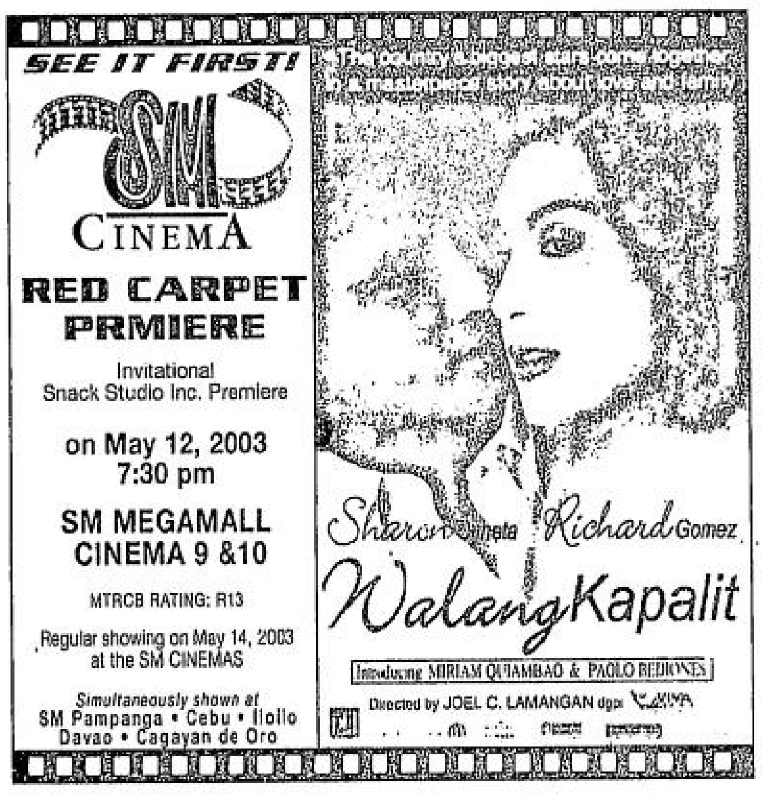

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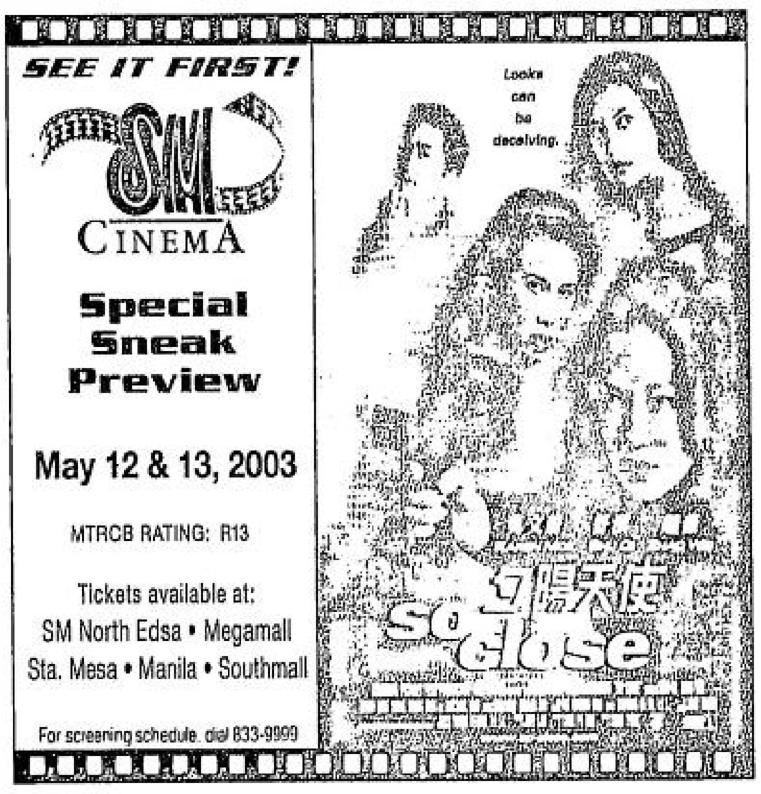

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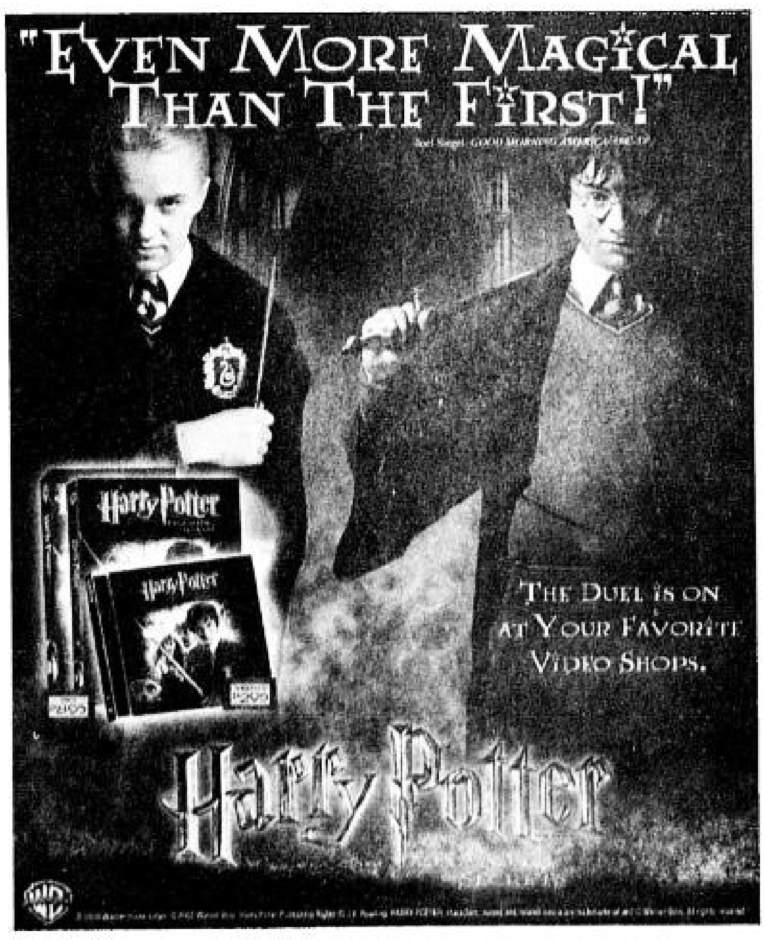

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ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE
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ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	PUNLA
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	PUNLA
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	TILL THERE WAS YOU
B	BAYARAN
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	TILL THERE WAS YOU
CINEMA-2	BAYARAN
CINEMA-3	XEREX
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	X-MEN 2
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	JOHNNY ENGLISH
CINEMA-6	TILL THERE WAS YOU
CINEMA-7	A MAN APART
CINEMA-8	BOLDSTAR
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	X-MEN 2
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	X-MEN 2
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	BRINGING THE HOUSE DOWN
CINEMA-12	PINOCCHIO
CINEMA-14	TILL THERE WAS YOU
CINEMA-15	CONFESSION OF DANGEROUS MIND
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	XEREX
CINEMA 2	JOHNNY ENGLISH
CINEMA 3	X-MEN
CINEMA 4	TILL THERE WAS YOU
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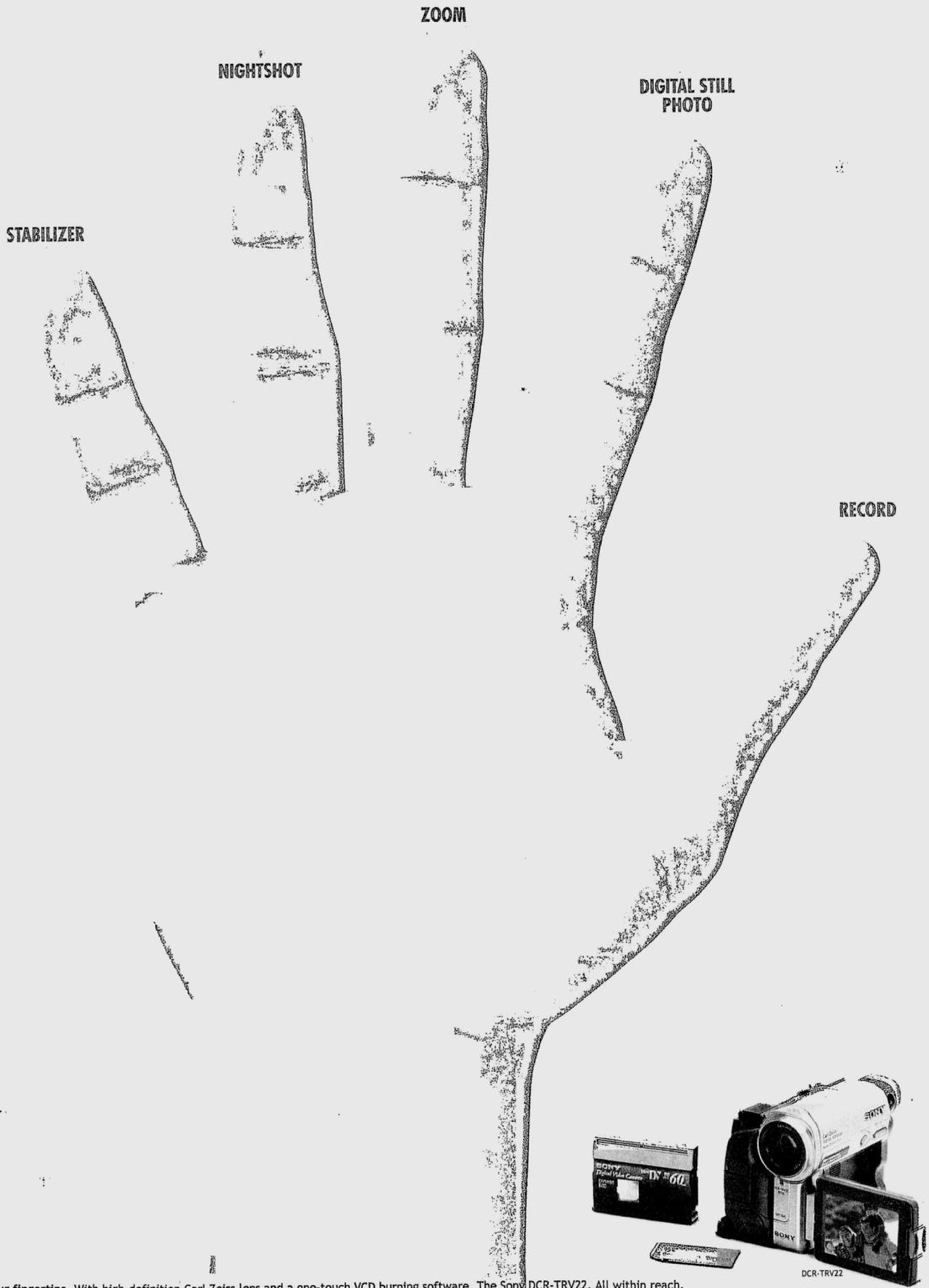

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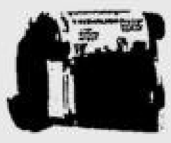

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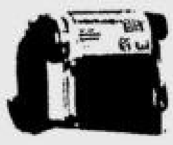

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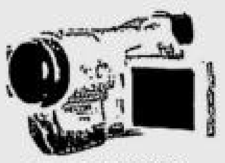

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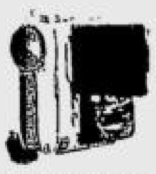

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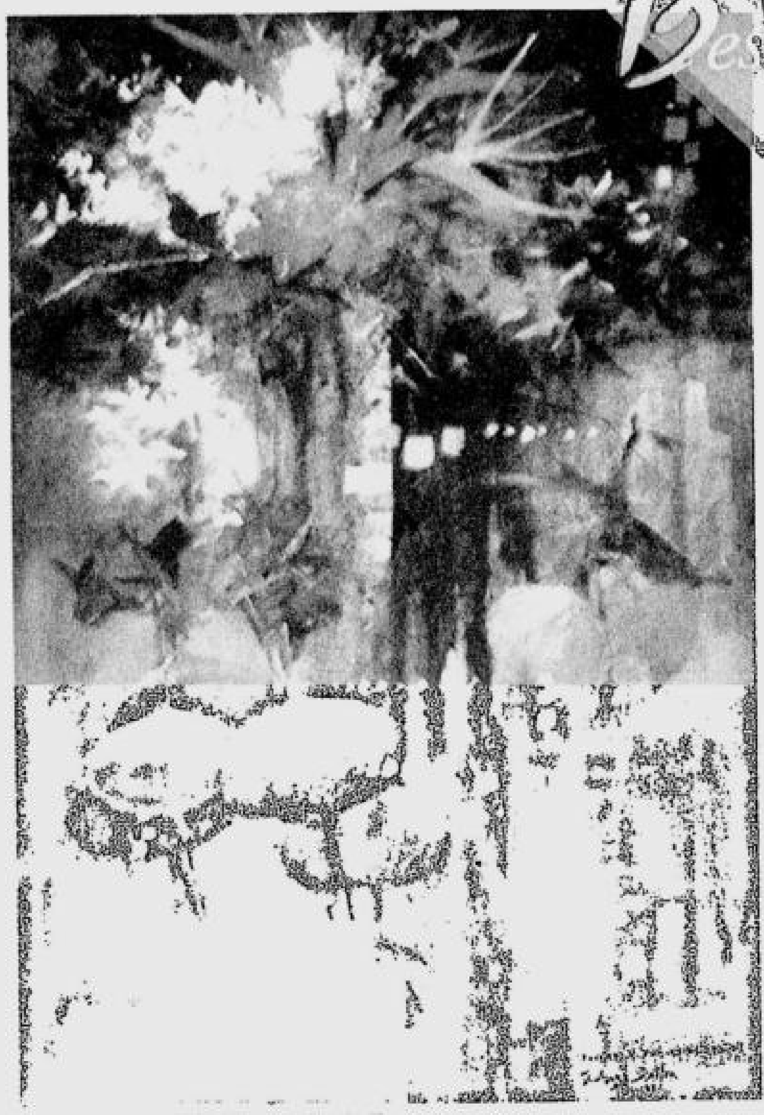
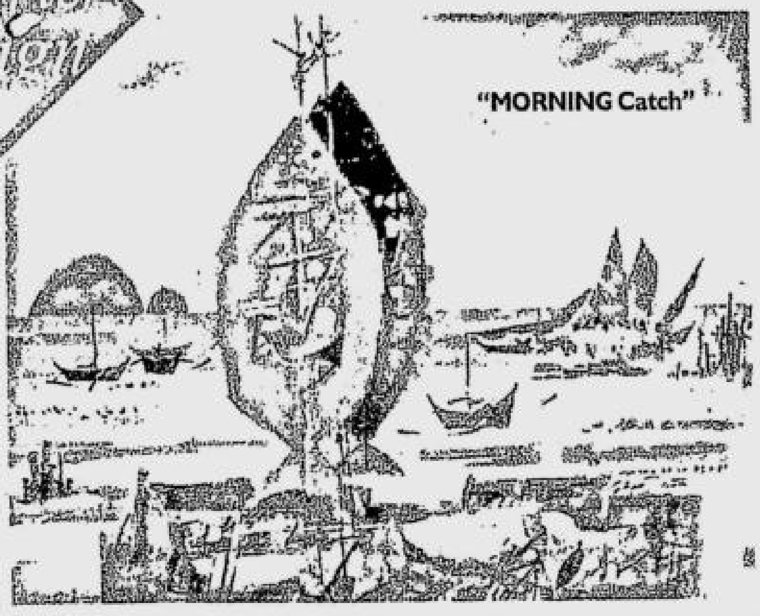


"FLOWERS and Philippine Fruits"



"MORNING Catch"

The watercolorist swamps the pale Big Apple with his rainbow of colors

Edgar Doctor in New York

By Carlomar Arcangel Daoana
Contributor

EDGAR Doctor is, without doubt, one of the finest visual artists of his generation. Backed up with a long list of credentials, including being listed in the "2000 Outstanding Artists and Designers of the 20th Century" published by the International Biographical Centre, Doctor has enough reason to take a backseat and enjoy the comforts brought about by his success.

But Doctor is restless. True to his artistic calling, Doctor is still translating the world—or, specifically, the unique soul of our country—painting after painting, showing to us the things we are either forgetting or losing as we struggle toward industrialization which, we know, homogenizes culture.

For the first time, Doctor held his one-man show away from the country. His 25th, "Images from Home," took place at the Philippine Center in New York City. It had a run of almost two weeks, April 29 until May 9.

This particular exhibit showcased his recent works in oil—a departure for Doctor who is identified with the medium of watercolor. The paintings depicted the scenes, sounds and scents of our island home.

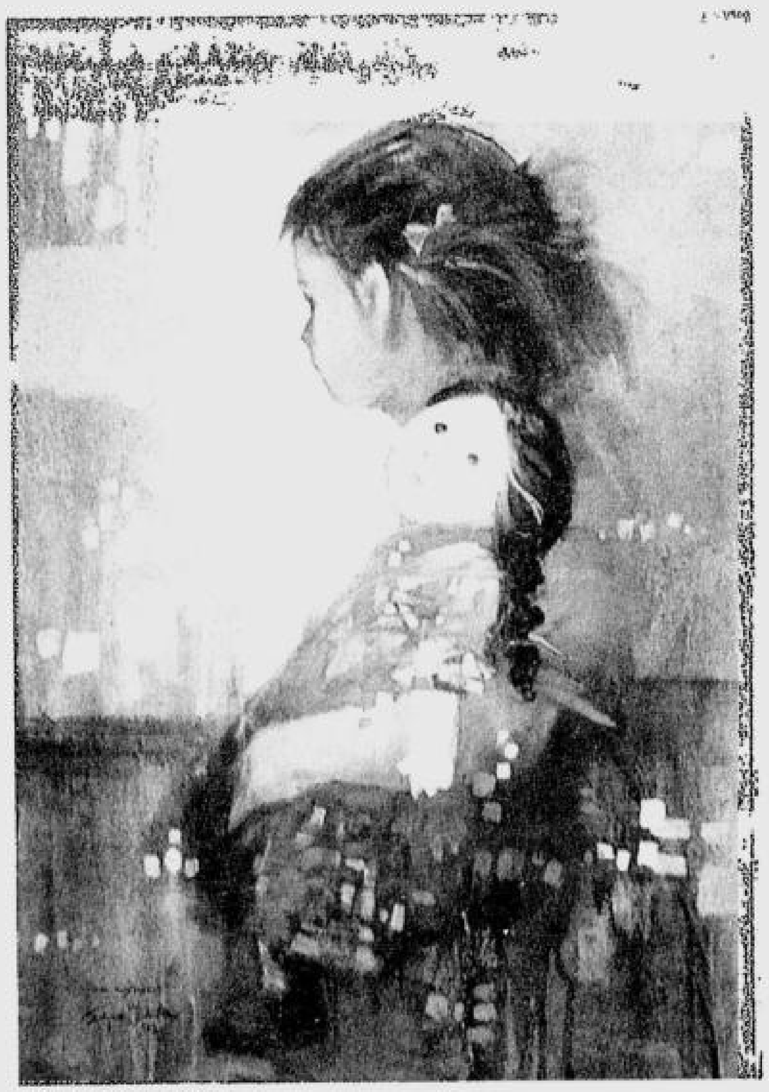
Doctor made renditions of places like Mayon and Divisoria, festivals like Santacruzan and Ati-Atihan, local cuisine like *sinigang* and *pinakbet*.

Although the themes of this one-man show were the same as his previous shows—for Doctor always celebrates his Filipinoness in his works—what distinguished them was the fastidiousness with which he used the medium.

There was an intense commitment involved—even the backgrounds of the paintings are bursting with colors, perhaps his way of capturing the festive, kaleidoscopic sense of how we view and reenact things.

Take "Flowers and Fruits" and "Ginatan," for example. They are not merely stuck on a flat, geometrical surface, but seem to float in a rich, textured air of colors.

EDGAR/D2



"GIRL with Doll"

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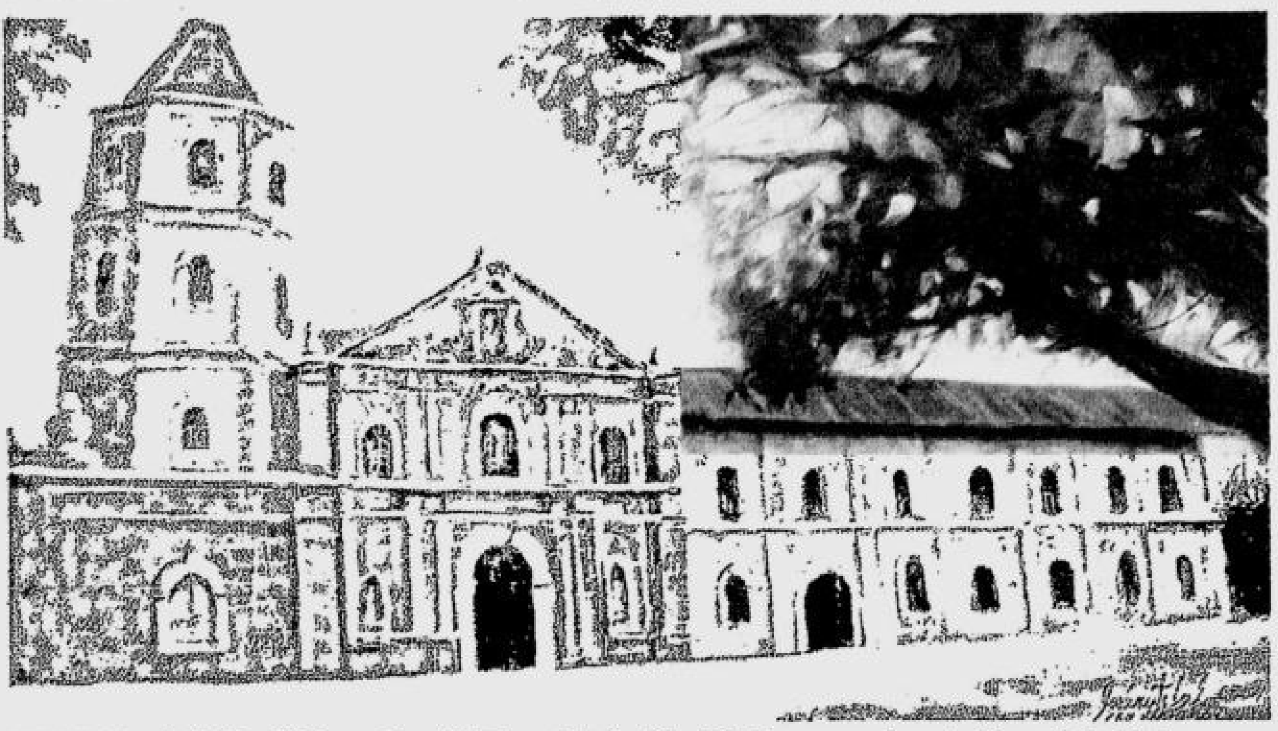
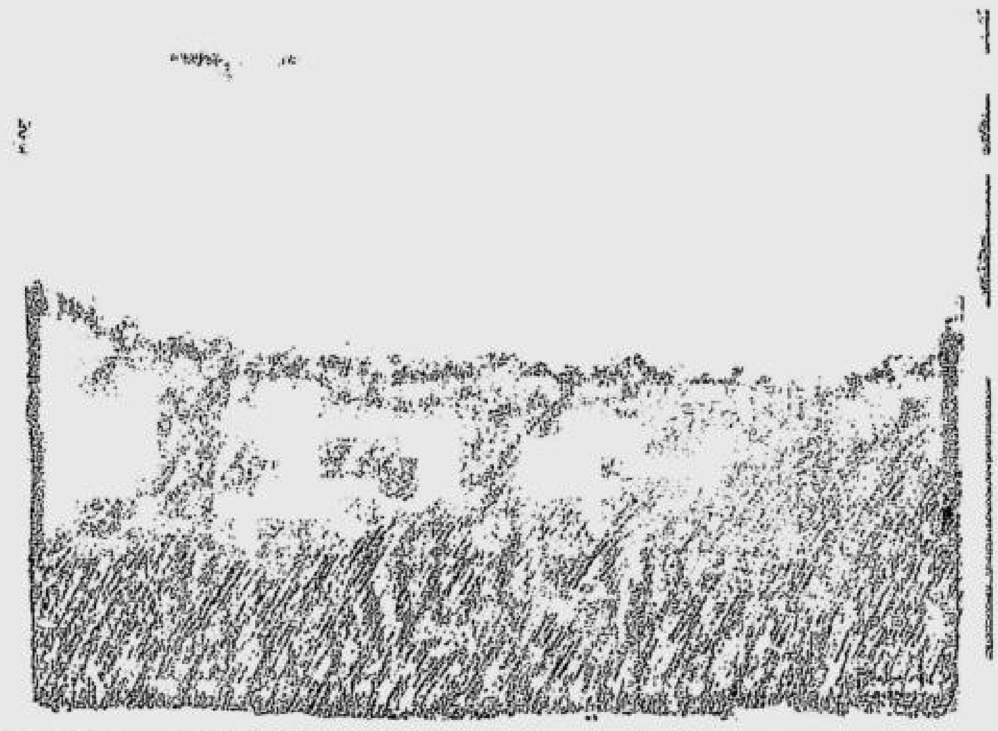
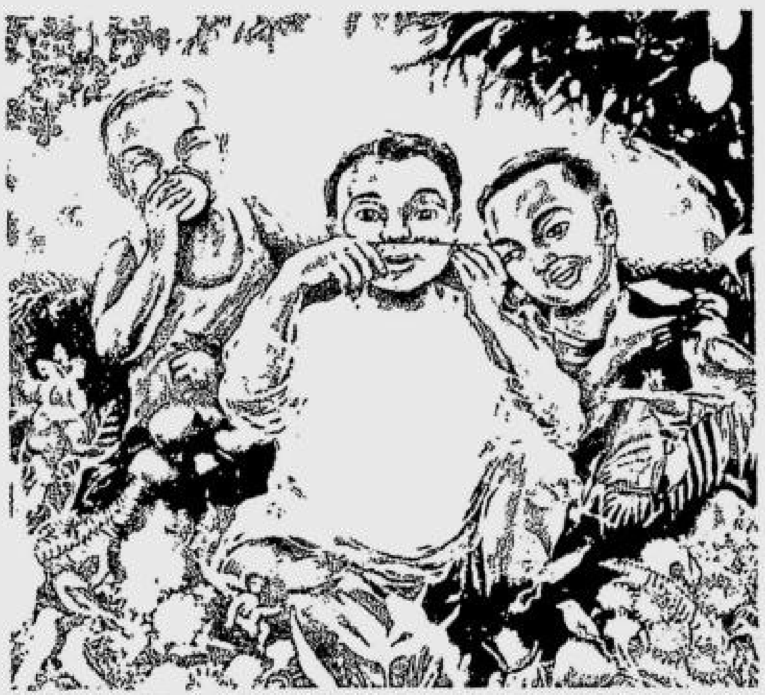


JOEL V. Cristobal's "San Ildefonso Church" (Tanay, Rizal), a 9" x 12" oil on canvas, is part of the artist's third one-man exhibit, "Reflections," on view until May 20 at the Galeria de las Islas, 3/F Silahis Center, 744 Gen. Luna St., Intramuros, Manila. Call 527-2113.



BYRON Valenzuela, "Talahib Series 2," mixed media on handmade paper

Butch Clarin Soriano at Philamlife, 3-in-1 at West



CARLOS D. Filart presents his second one-man show at the Ayala Museum until May 23. "Laro" features Philippine childhood games.

NIKULAS Lebajo presents 12 canvases in oil at Bon Apetit in Rustan's Makati. In the works, he refines his paintings of glassware and pottery. The paintings were auctioned off during the Wharton Penn Foundation International affair. Call Bon Apetit, 815-6178.

"MEMORIES," a posthumous exhibit of oil paintings to honor Butch Clarin Soriano, is showing at the Philamlife Building on UN Avenue, Ermita, Manila until May 16.

Soriano died of cancer last year. His chemotherapy days became sketching sessions.

Before that, Soriano taught art at San Beda, Ateneo de Davao and the UST College of Fine arts and Design. His best-known project was "Mga Munting Daliri," an annual art workshop for school kids.

YOUNG artists Parker Encisa, Rodel Garcia and Roldan Ventura present "Realistic," at the Big & Small Art Co. in SM Megamall, until May 19. Call 687-7425.

VISUAL ARTS

DENES Dasco, Hoche Briones, and Byron Valenzuela will hold simultaneous solo shows at the West Gallery (SM Megamall) on May 16. To be curated by Ruben Defeo, the shows show varied approaches to art and themes.

THIRTEEN individuals who share a passion for black-and-white photography present "Light and Shadow: A Vintage Black & White" at The Alcove Photo Gallery (Filipinas Heritage Library, Makati Avenue, Ayala Triangle, Makati) on May 12-23.

The exhibit is a culmination of a six-day workshop conducted at the Filipinas Heritage Library by Kat Palasi, a graduate of the International Center for Photography in New York, and Vir Montecastro, a photo consultant.

Participating artists are Nieves Alvarez, Johanna Boestel, Emily Bomasang, Candy Cantada, Darwin Chiong, Mariann Africa-de Dios, Carol Gancia, Margie Lopa-Perez, Rhoda Ramos, Valerie Anne M. Rivas, Chinqui Roldan, Dino M. Romano and Bernadette Tamayo.

The next session of Photo 201: Vintage B&W Film Photography will be held May 13-15, 19-21. Call 892-1801 or 759-3371.

KIKO Escora explores the enigmatic human figure in his latest show, "Social Reality," at the SM Megamall Art Center May 16-31. The exhibit features Escora's large-scale diptychs. The exhibit is organized by the Big & Small Art Co. Call 687-7425.

ARTIST Mark Justiniani and ceramist Shoko Mafune present "Dreams: Etchings and Ceramics" at the Galleria Duemila, 4/L SM Megamall A, Ortigas Center, May 12-30. Call 831-9990, 633-6687 or telefax 833-9815.

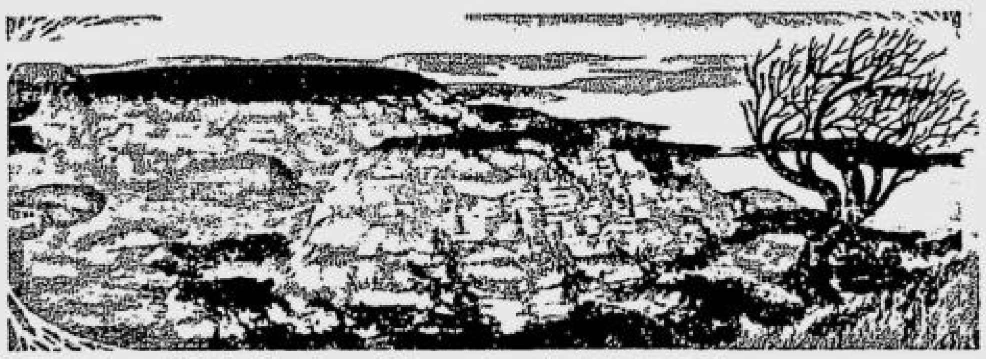
PEP Manalang presents "Dualities" at the Finale Art Gallery (SM Megamall) May 20-June 1.

Finale also brings together husband and wife Wire Tuazon and Keiye Miranda for the first time in "Dwellings," which runs until May 18. Call 634-2411.

ALLIANCE Française de Manille's first photo and fashion exhibit can now be seen at the Alliance's offices in Makati until May 19. Dubbed "Visions 01: New Vision in Fashion-Paris-Manille 8X8," the event fuses French art photography and Filipino fashion design.

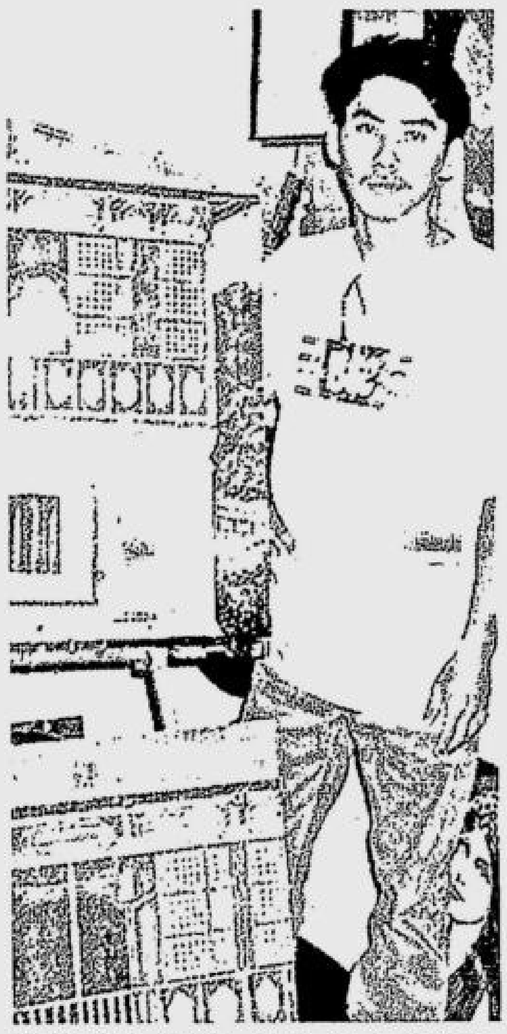
The photographers are Christian Leseman, Morganne Le Gall, Daniel Stier, Francois Rousseau, Banu Cennetoglu, Camille Vivier, Marcus Jans and Emmanelle Mafille. Designers are Federick Peralta, Mich Dulce, Jesus Lloren, Vic Barba, Joey Samson, Arcy Gayatin, Ivarluski Aseron and Gregg Centeno.

Call 895-7757 or 899-3654.



HOCHE Briones' "Digital Landscape 2," computer printout on paper

"A FESTIVAL of Colors," by Magoo Valencia, Bing Siochi and Ernie Patricio, is on view at the Shangri-La Plaza's Gallery 828 until May 19.



PORTRAIT artist Renato Austriz, Jr. holds his painting "Ukkalong Falls" done in acrylic, one of his arts entries in a recent special group exhibition by the Artists Guild of La Union at the Oasis Hotel in San Fernando City. He joins Lou Habab in a two-man show until May 31 at the JMA Art Gallery, Magallanes Plaza, Luna, La Union. He will also head delegations that will hold exhibitions in Philippine embassies in the Netherlands (June 12-25) and Paris, France (June 31-July 12). Call (072) 794-6151 or (0919) 698-8124.

CALBAYOG ART ASSOCIATION (CAA) INDUCTION. Justice Josefina G. Salonga (fifth from right) poses for a souvenir picture with members of the CAA at the residence and art studio of Raul and Belle Isidro (extreme right and fourth from right, respectively) in Makati. With them are (from right) lawyer Romeo L. Salonga, Armando E. Toleza, Noel Sagayap, Willie Labana, Danny Celum, Jun Sabile and Aris Ventures.

Edgar Doctor in New York

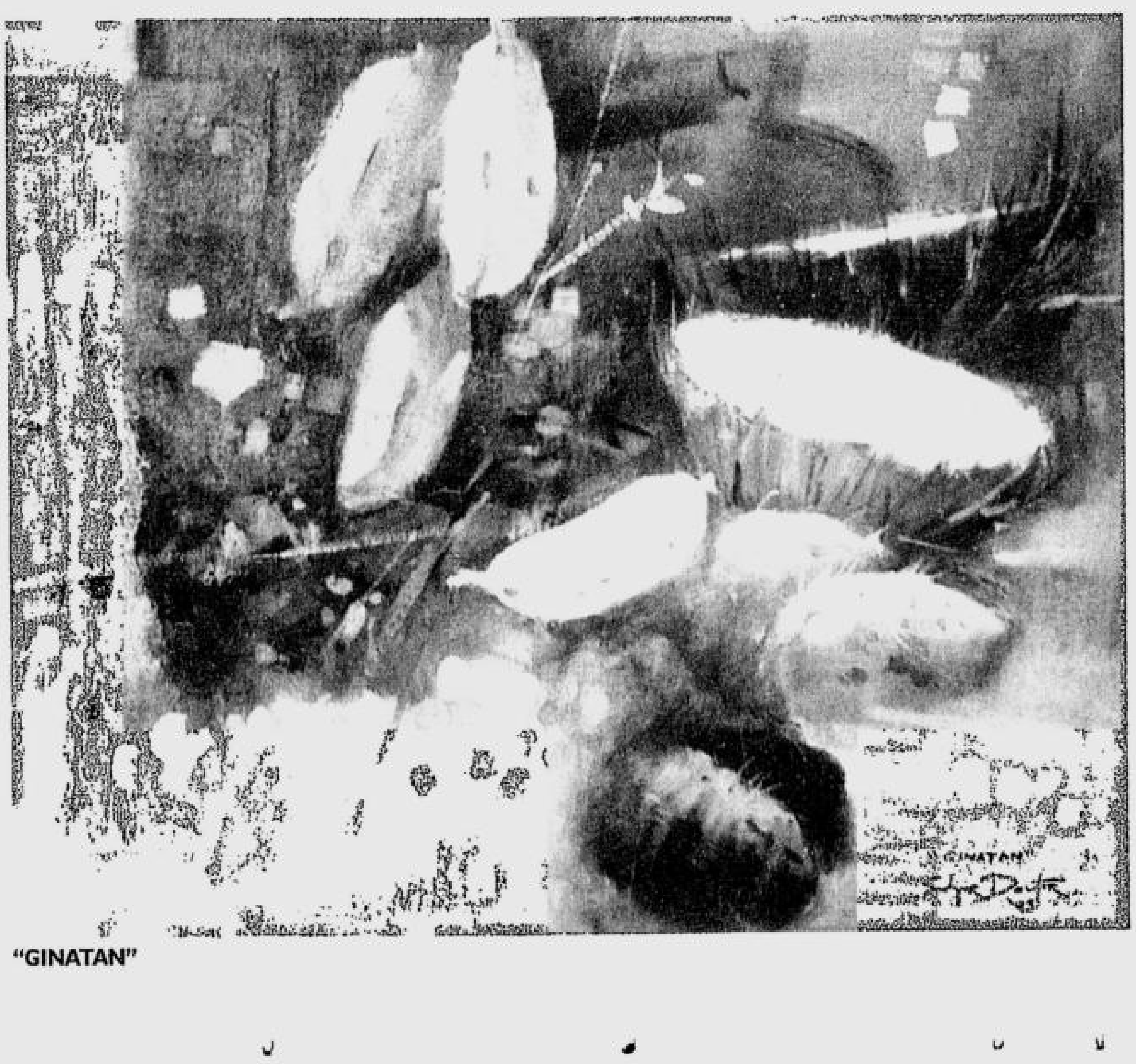
EDGAR Doctor

From page D1

One of the best paintings in the collection is "Manyika ni Nene," showing a little girl holding a doll. This one is charged with subdued emotions. We can immediately see the relation that connects the two—the way the girl carries the doll by the crook of her arm as she faces a window straight into the invisible landscape.

Filipinos who saw the one-man show were struck either by a sense of familiarity or nostalgia, and for Americans, perhaps a sense of awe and foreignness. But what did not escape the eye—and inevitably the mind and the heart—was how Doctor managed to lift beauty from this wonderful commotion of colors with the deftness of a magician.

The images fall into place, resonate, ring with a sense of rightness. They may be saying something cultural, but beauty is that quality which is always recognizable and intact in art, and Doctor selflessly and tirelessly carries it to us, we who are sailing in an ocean of urban junk and irrelevant signs.



"GINATAN"

RI District 3800 governor Efren de Guzman (center) receives an Aling Cela Award from Rafael Pacheco (right). Also shown is Joey Pacheco.

ARTIST Rafael Pacheco, National Artist Nick Joaquin, Arsenio Tanco, Manuel Duldulao, Carmen Guerrero Nakpil, Leonarda Camacho, Lina Aurelio, Efren de Guzman and Paul Honorio

Ka Paeng marks milestone with friends and art lovers

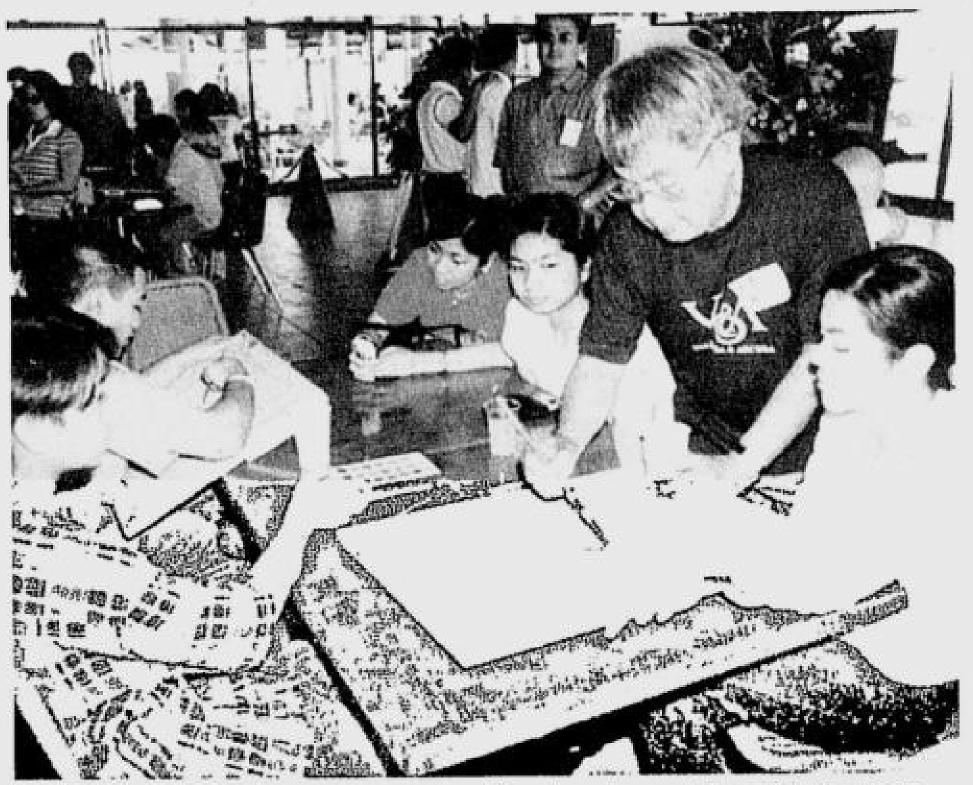
PACHECO with Estefania Aldaba Lim, Philippine Association of Printmakers president Raul Isidro and Art Association of the Philippines Foundation president Ramon Orlina

RAFAEL Pacheco, the finger-painter and sculptor, opened his "Art World" exhibit at SM Megamall's Art Center April 30.

Fellow artists and art enthusiasts, writers, teachers and students, media people, the Rotary International District 3800, and friends of Ka Paeng were on hand to celebrate with him.

Among the celebrities were Carmen Guerrero Nakpil and National Artist Nick Joaquin, Arsenio Tanco, Manuel Duldulao, Leonarda Camacho, Lina Aurelio, Rotary governor Efren de Guzman, Paul Honorio, Joey Pacheco, Orly Punzalan, Estefania Aldaba Lim, Raul Isidro, Ramon Orlina.

WITH GUESTS National Artist Nick Joaquin and Carmen Guerrero Nakpil



ARTIST Magoo Valencia conducts an energetic watercolor workshop with the guests.

Arts and leisure in Laguna estate

VISITORS of the Ayala Greenfield Estates in Calamba, Laguna, were treated to an abundance of art, nature and leisure recently.

The Saturday Group of artists, led by Malang, graced the occasion. Families and art enthusiasts were given a rare chance to interact with the artists.

Guests who reserved lots brought home for free artworks that depicted the landscape of Ayala Greenfield Estates.

The clubhouse view deck, which looks out over Mt. Makiling, was converted into an arts center where visitors observed the artists at work and had their portraits done.

In the social hall, artist Magoo Valencia taught adults the basics of watercolor painting. The kids gathered near the infinity swimming pool to learn finger painting, clay sculpture and ceramic painting with the help of the Museo Pambata staff.

"We want our artists to see the place and do some paintings here since this place is really a good way of highlighting the environment," said Ayala Greenfield Estates assistant vice president Jun Bisnar. "The community has good views; nature is close by. Even the artists are saying they like the mountainside view because they can see a lot of subjects and scenery that they can paint."

Guests agreed that Ayala Greenfield Estates offers a breathtaking vantage point. On a clear day, one can see the Balayan Bay, the Taal Lake and the crater of the Taal Volcano. There are no electric posts to obstruct the spectacular view. The climate is pleasant and unpolluted.

The community is a joint project of two of the country's leading property developers—Ayala Land Inc. and Greenfield Development Corp.

A comfortable one-hour ride from Metro Manila, the recreation paradise is being envisioned as a weekend getaway. Sports enthusiasts can play a mean game of golf while others can enjoy the amenities at the leisure club—a fully-equipped clubhouse, a spa and wellness center, multi-sports facilities, an infinity swimming pool, and a playground.

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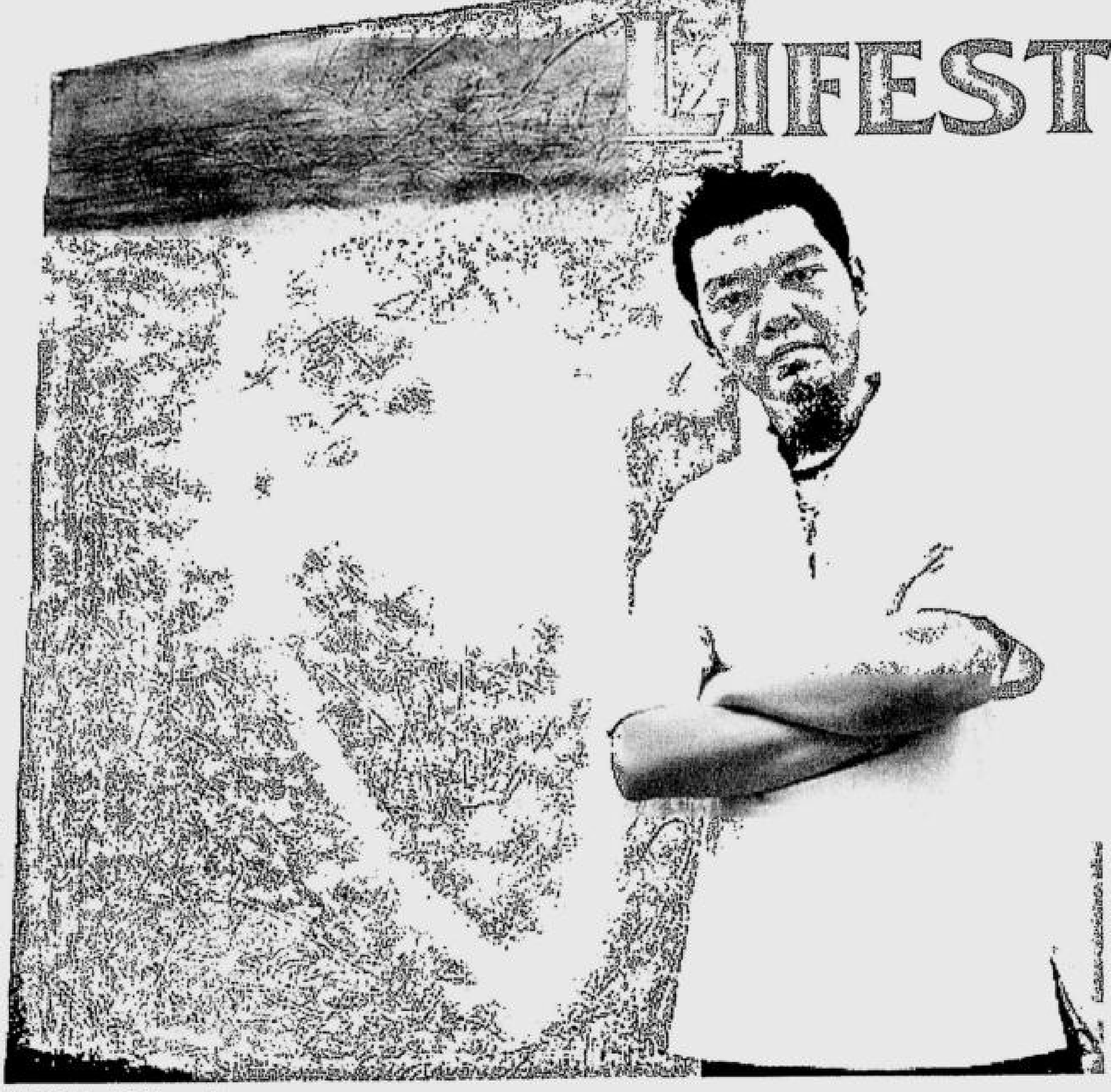

LINDSLEE with his work

The gestural touches contribute to the unrelieved sense of motion and mutation

LINDSLEE AND TEMPEROSA

Poetic abstractions, musical serigraphs

By Gino Dormiendo
Contributor

CONTEMPORARY abstract art has found a young, most promising and ardent disciple in the person of Lindslee, a 24-year-old painter from Bacolod City, who has zealously pursued his goal of navigating abstract expressionism with an intense, deeply evocative style that sets his work apart from the predictable and the nondescript.

Lindslee (full name: Lindsey James Alvarez Lee) has impressively chalked up three solo shows, the first having been mounted in 2000 at the Harrison Public Library in New York, where he trained with the city's Art Students League and affiliated with the Greenwich Art Society.

In the course of his two-year New York stint, he exhibited in various juried shows, where his strikingly spontaneous painting style caught the attention of the highly discriminating chi-chi crowd.

The unassuming, soft-spoken Chinoy artist went on to mount a second show at the Avellana Gallery soon after returning to the Philippines, which, indeed, confirmed his aesthetic potential as a visual poet who speaks in images marked by a rare and truly remarkable dynamism.

Inspired by animals drawn from Pinoy ethnographic sources and those elemental, if lethal, microorganisms, Lindslee once again showed his versatility in both small and large-scale canvases in a recent group show of College of Fine Arts and Design alumni of the venerable University of Santo Tomas at the Art Center.

In the show "Cause and Effect," (The Drawing Room, until June 4), Lindslee works on acid-free paper, a medium which lends itself to his integrative use of form, color and texture and subsumed by the semiotic conveyance of postmodern chaos. The works expectedly teem with allusions to the nature of causal relationships, the polarities of cause and effect as suggested by the schema of contrasting forms and evoked by disjointed shapes materializing within the work.

The paper works reveal an irresistibly frenetic presence characteristic of the abstract expressionistic fervor enhanced and heightened by seemingly endless doodles and dawdlings, in the manner and tradition of acme painting. The omnipresent gestural touches, through the artist's spontaneous strokes in pencil and brush, likewise contribute to the unrelieved sense of motion and mutation.

Lindslee has seen it fit to limit his color to the barest earth shades, magisterial in their restraint, thus allowing the central meaning to resonate in, and permeate, the works. With their strong dominant grays and moss-lilac hues, the pieces dramatize the grand moment of immersion, and, more particularly, the artist's attempt to grapple with the heady effect of stimulation. The result is a brilliant stroke of abstraction, decidedly of a remarkably uncommon perspective.

***

The first solo show of printmaker Bernard Temperosa (Avellana Gallery, until May 31) yields a bountiful harvest of serigraphs—in edition of monoprint—which is the choice

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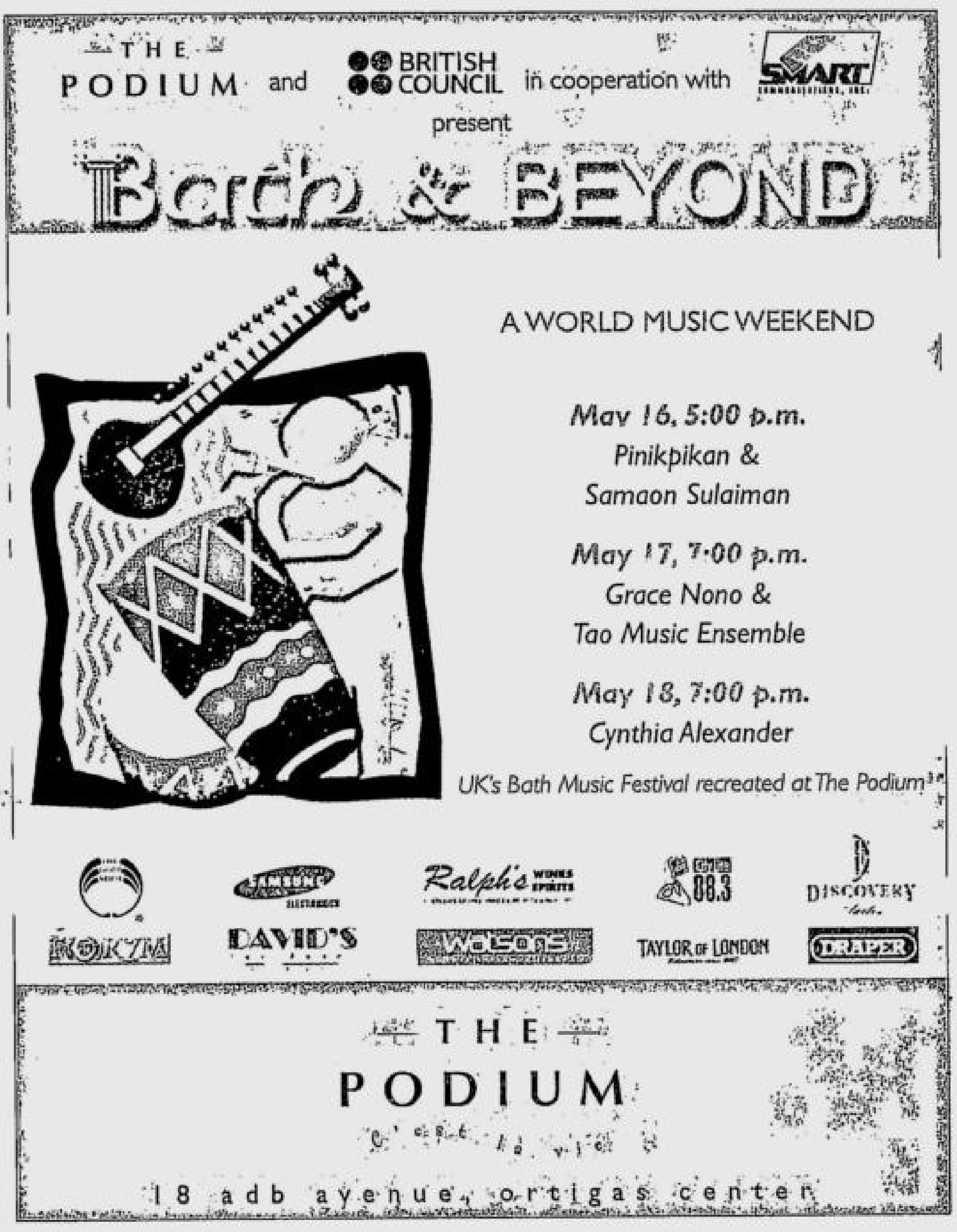
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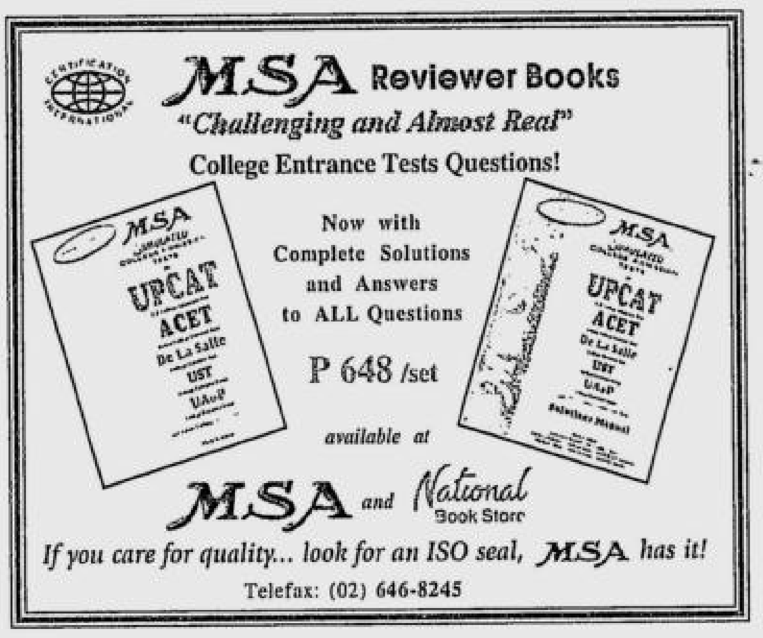
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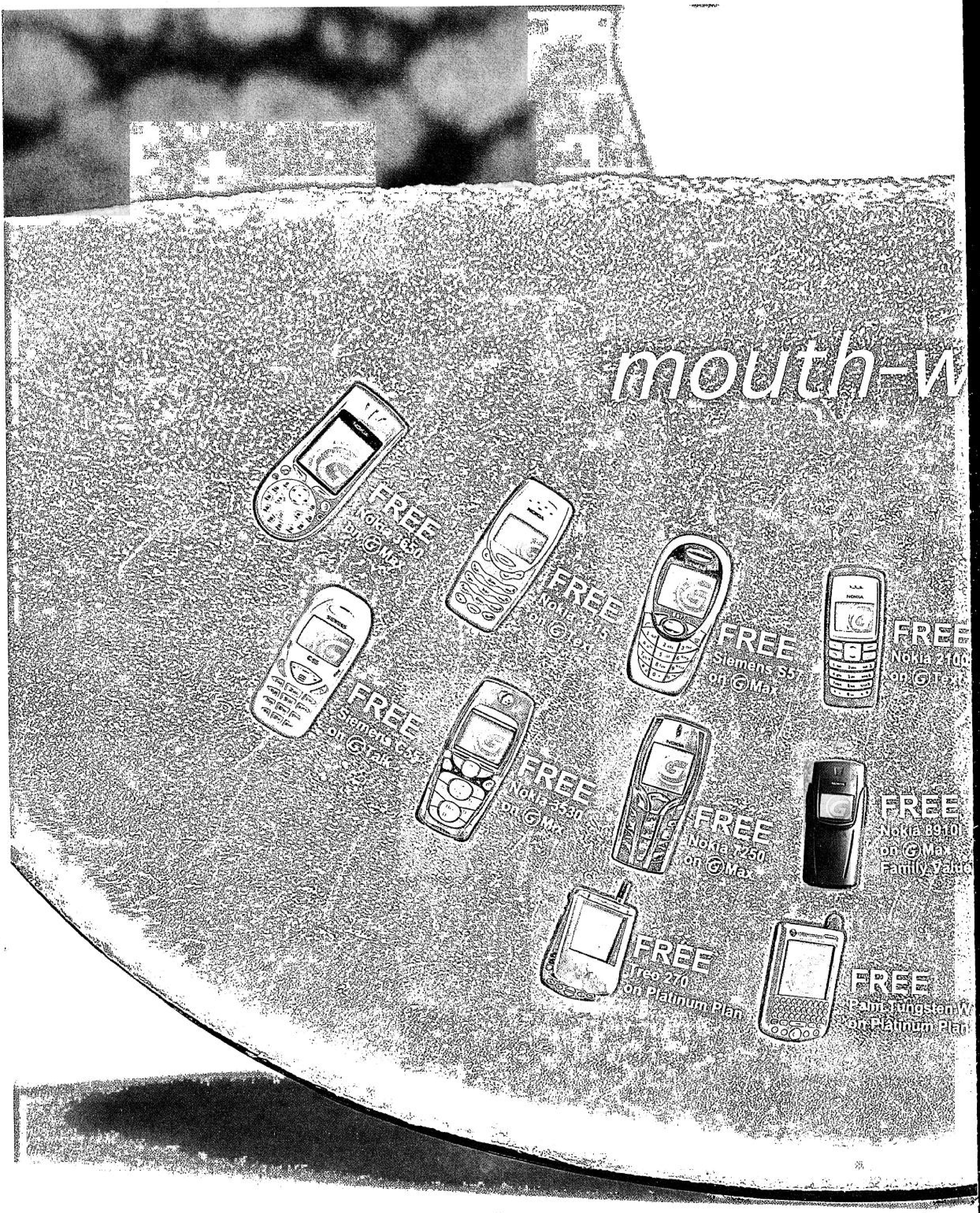
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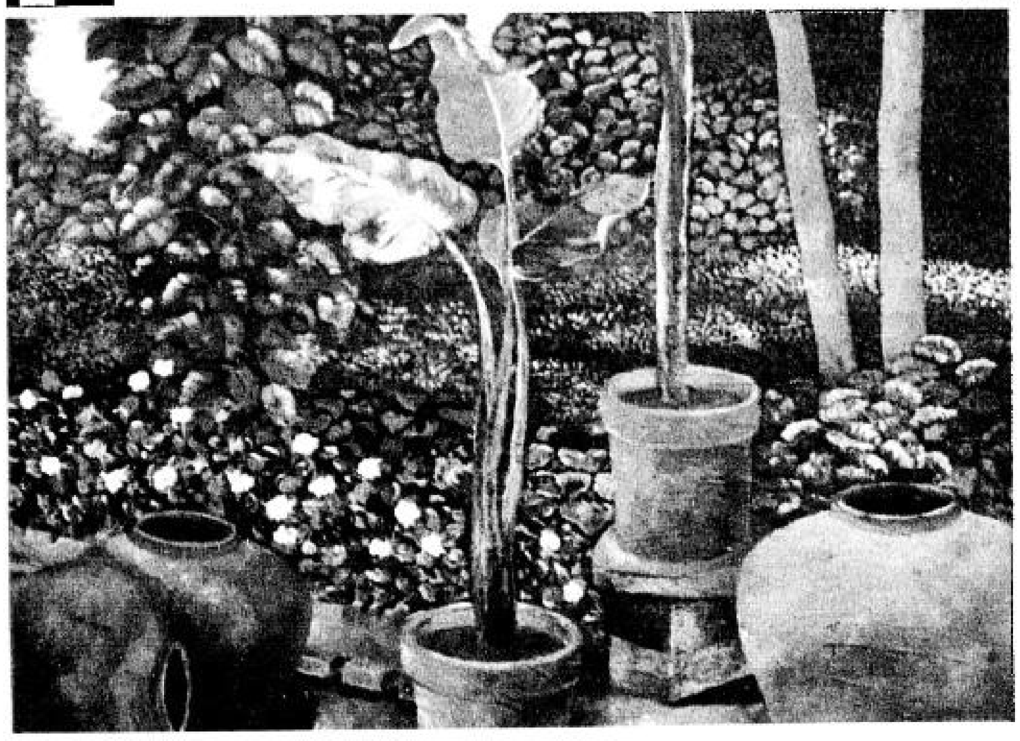


"BANGA ni Lola"

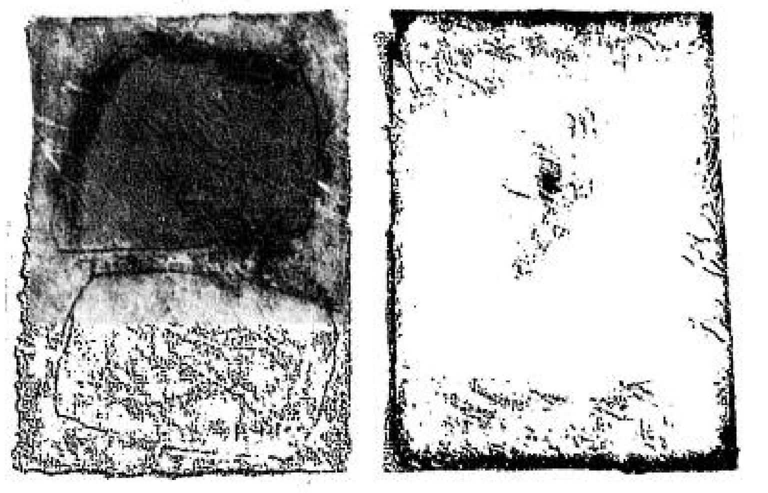
The green world of Marquez at GSIS Museum

GSIS Museum of Art features the works of Roberto Marquez in an exhibit titled "Dating Verde." Marquez, popularly known as Obet, is a freelance graphic artist and advertising consultant who finished Fine Arts at the Feati University.

"Dating Verde" is a visual celebration of Philippine green. It features enlarged images of leaves, foliage and forests. In the midst of the summer heat, the exhibit provides a refreshing and reinvigorating respite.

The exhibition is showing at the Main Lobby of the GSIS Museum until June 6. It is sponsored by Metrobank Foundation Inc., Rachy Cuna, Water Perfect and D floras Garden.

Call 551-1301. Admission is free.



"CAUSE and Effect #14 and 11," by Lindslee

Poetic abstractions, musical serigraphs

From page E1

medium of this practitioner of the graphic arts, who is also an active disciple of the Philippine Association of Printmakers (PAP).

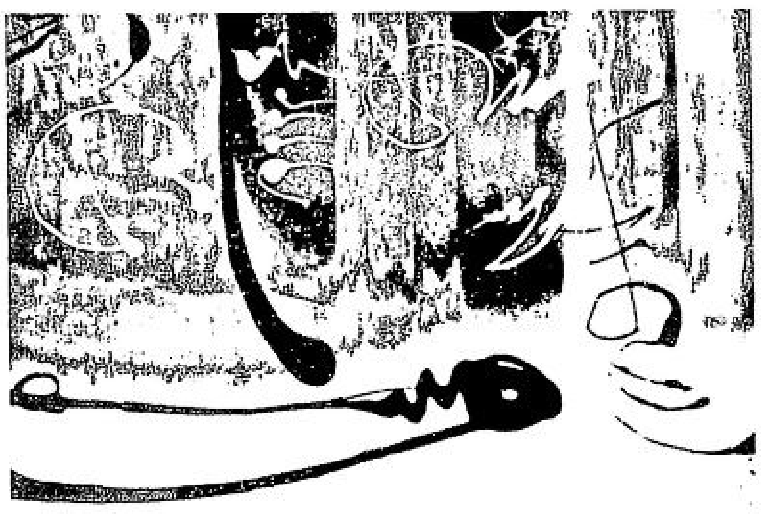
A Fine Arts graduate of the Philippine Women's University, Temperosa has worked in a variety of print techniques such as rubbercut and etching, but, in time, decided that serigraph is the medium that would best suit his striking repertoire.

In these works, the artist shows the full versatility of conveying meaning through black and white images, with a wide range of subjects, as is likely to come from an initial show like Temporosa's.

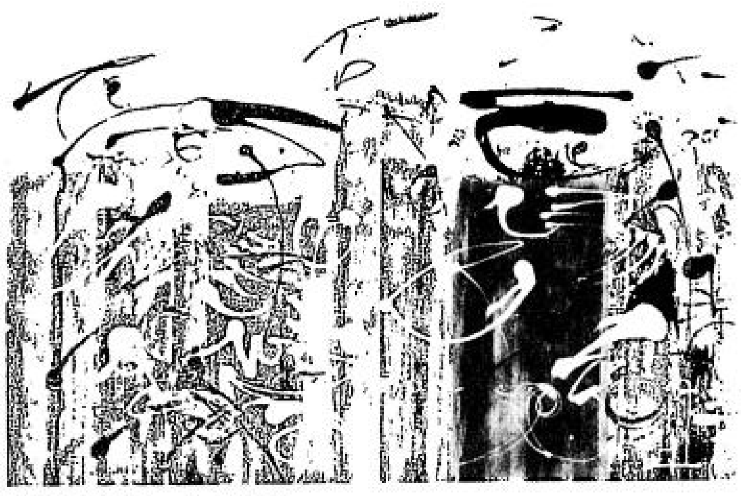
The images have emanated from frenzied spurts of squiggly forms that resemble calligraphic movements ascending, mutating, and progressing, like decibels, in their varying levels of intensity. Thus, in "Yoga" we see the shape of a human figure, with its rich panoply of bodily movements. In "Centaur," the presence of a mythological creature is seen emerging in the pictorial field. In "Birds of Paradise," the light-and-dark calligraphic touches hint at the coruscating view of winged creatures on a stark background.

The works, moreover, radiate a kind of vibrant movement emanating from those jazzed-up gestural, hyped-up movements. Temperosa's innate sense of musicality—culled from his previous training as a professional keyboardist of a band—generates here a sensuous, if seductive allure to his works, which, in another level, combine the best features of painting and printmaking.

E-mail the author at gdormiendo@yahoo.com



"FLIGHT of the Harlequin II," serigraph on canvas, by Bernard Temperosa



"BIRDS of Paradise," by Temperosa

Live fast. Age fast.

We city creatures thrive on what modern living is all about. Career pathing, shopping, partying, travels, dating and a thousand other activities to choose from. The list goes on and on. But an unhealthy lifestyle, which we get from everyday stress, excessive partying, staying up late, bad diet and exposure to environmental pollution, can turn our own body against us.

Oxidants. The killer within.

Oxidation is the process wherein our body is supplied with oxygen. In the presence of a normal oxidation process, we should have healthy cells & healthy tissues that undergo the continuous cycle of regeneration. However, a stressful lifestyle upsets this balance when normally beneficial antibodies turn into harmful free radicals. These prematurely kill the cells and break down collagen, the cement that holds cells together. The deterioration of collagen is the primary factor in ageing, making skin lose its elasticity, which causes wrinkles, lines and loose skin.

Antioxidants to the rescue.

The real key to looking and feeling good is to practice a well-balanced lifestyle. Find time to exercise regularly and get the proper nutrition your body needs. Sleep is the body's time to revitalize, so be sure to make up for lost sleep. It also helps to live in a relatively clean environment and to stay away from vices such as excessive drinking and smoking.

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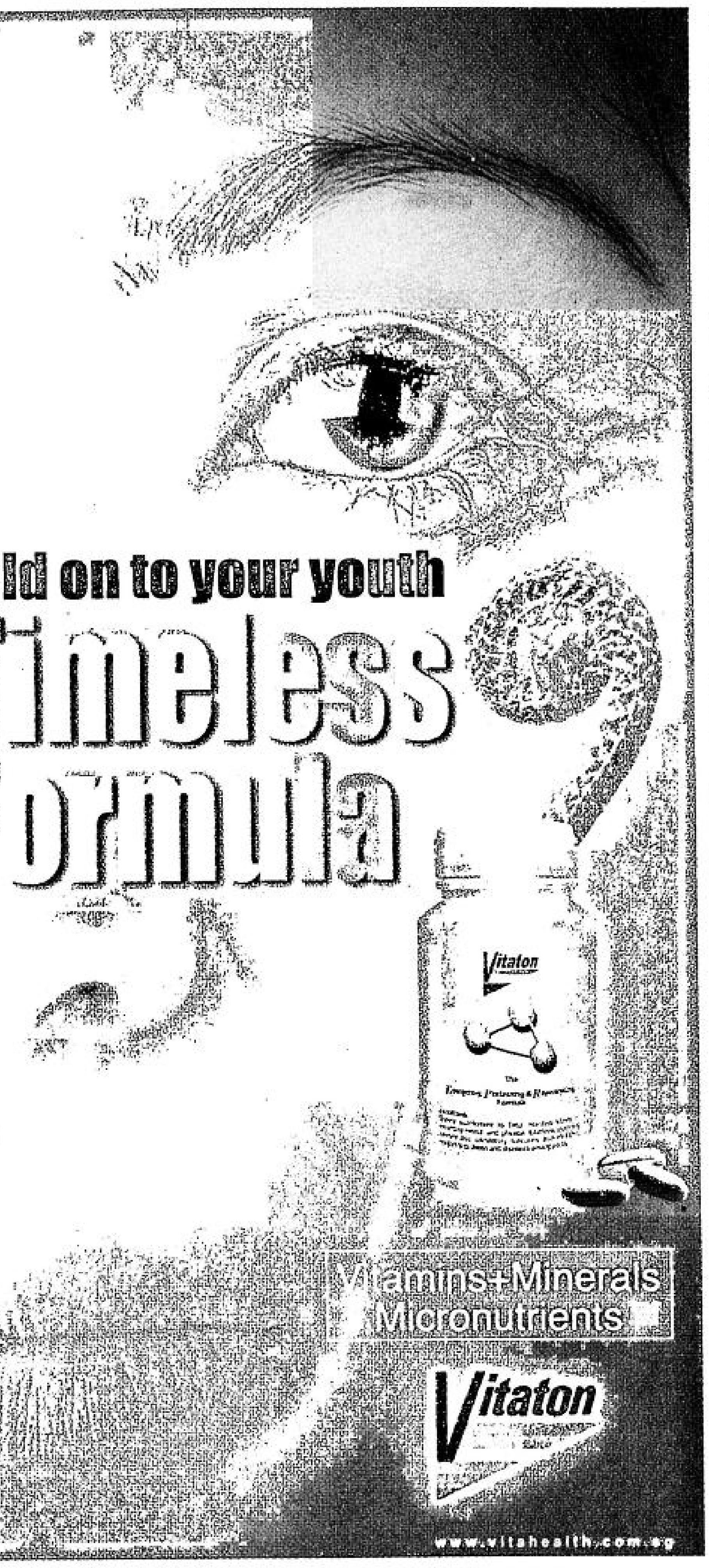

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Per DTI-Cebu Permit No.187 Series of 2003.

LIFESTYLE

International performers to create 'world of harmony'

GERMAN violinist Susanna Henkel

The 14th annual Toyota Classics in Manila brings together German, Japanese and Filipino talents

By Antonio C. Hila
Contributor

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INTERNATIONAL/ F4

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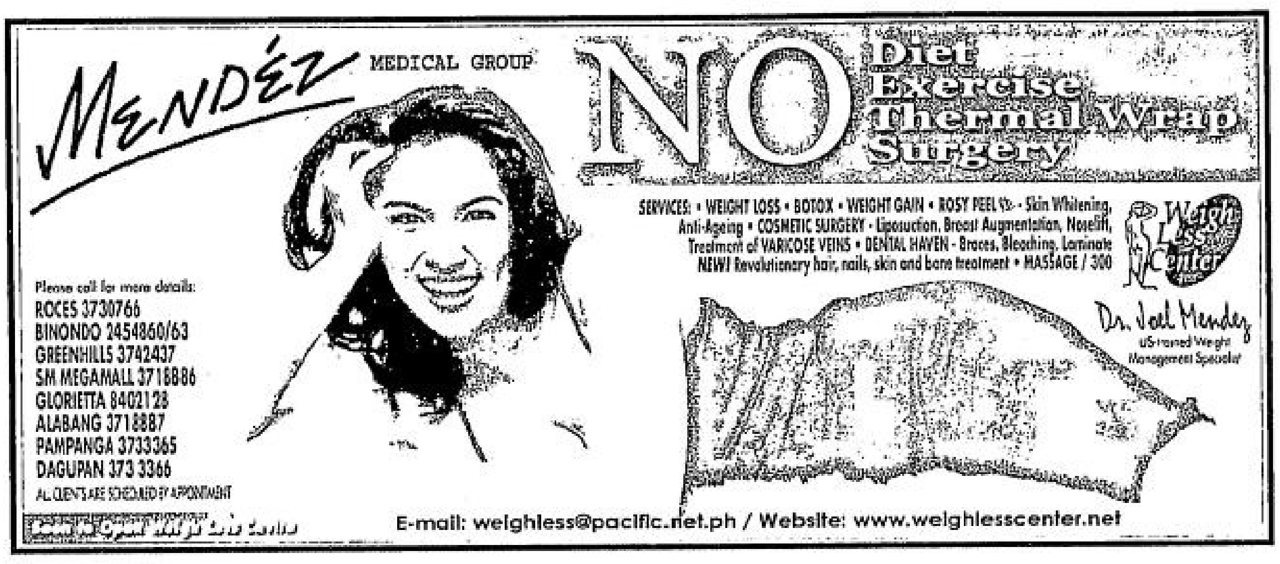
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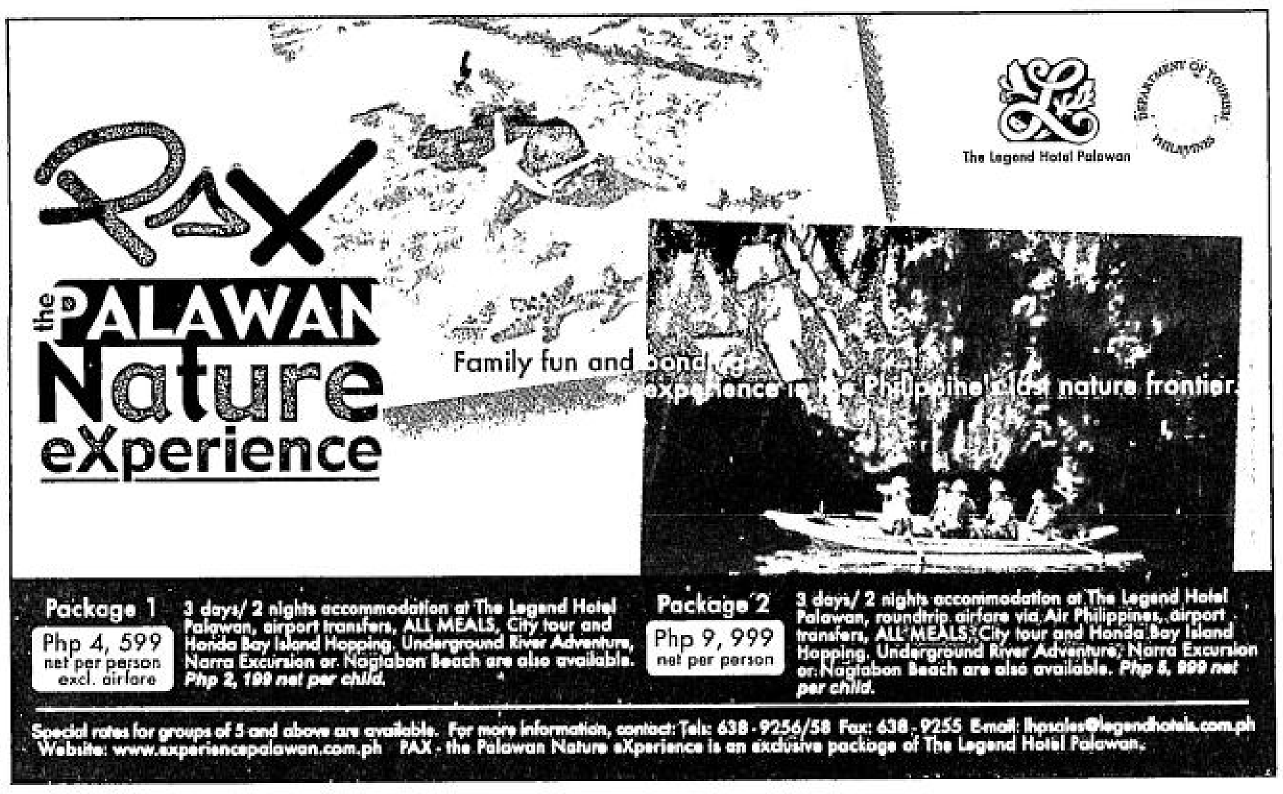
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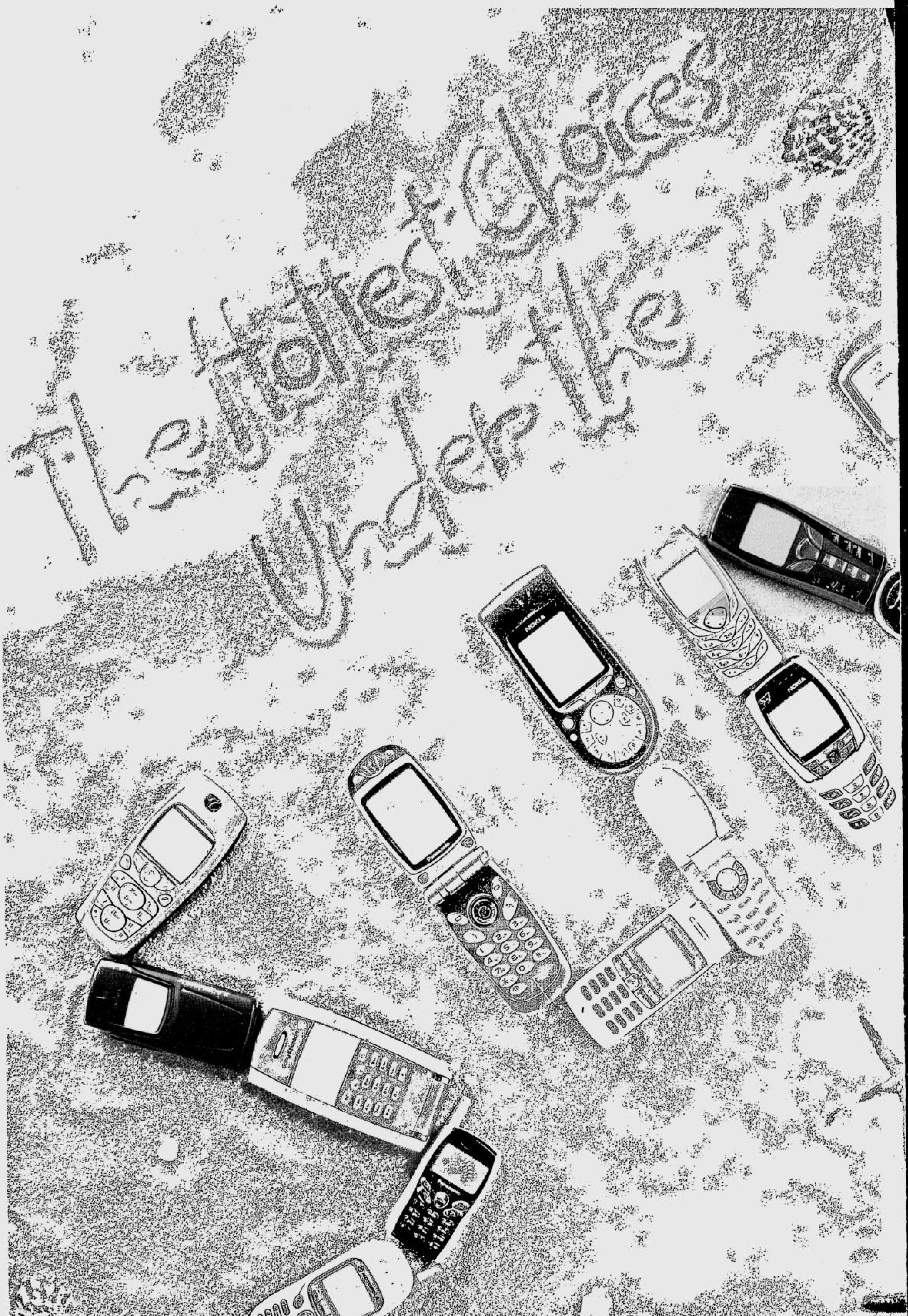

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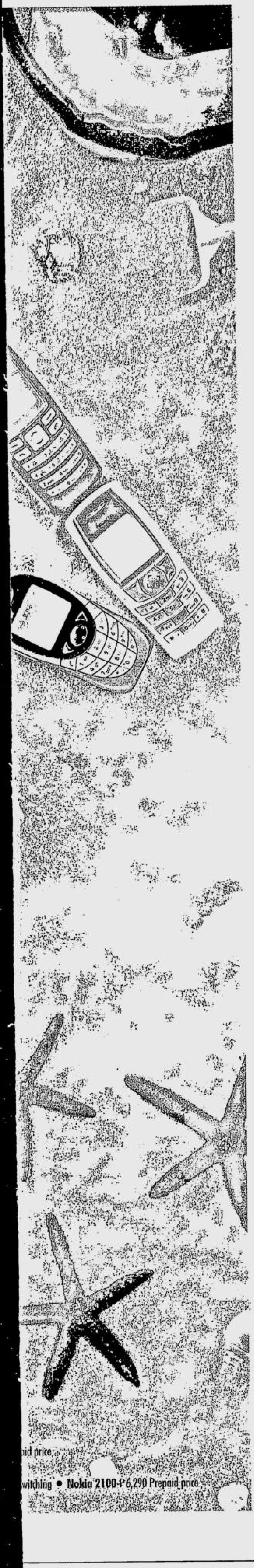

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Nokia 3650	25,490	18,850	4,000	FREE	FREE	17,500	FREE	FREE	FREE
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Nokia 6610	20,790	16,000	3,000	FREE	FREE	15,000	FREE	FREE	FREE
Nokia 2100	6,290	1,750	FREE	FREE	FREE	500	FREE	FREE	FREE
Motorola T190	2,990	1,250	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE
Sony Ericsson T100	5,690	2,000	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE
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Nokia 6100	22,990	19,000	14,500	FREE	FREE	18,000	6,500	FREE	FREE
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International performers to create 'world of harmony'

From page F1

The concert will feature artists of different nationalities to convey the idea of "world of harmony." It is topbilled by the Northeast German Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by young Japanese conductor Koji Kawamoto, with German violinist Susanna Henkel and Filipino soprano Rachelle Gerodias as soloists.

As in last year's concert, proceeds of the show will go to a charitable cause, according to Daniel Isla, first vice president of the marketing division. Isla is coordinating preparations for the concert.

The Northeast German Orchestra is the orchestra of Theatre Vorpommern in the Meeklenburg-Vorpommern state. The theater is the result of the fusion in 1994 of the Theatre Greifswald, founded in 1914, and Theatre Stralsund, founded in 1916. It has some 280 members including musicians, opera singers, choir, ballet dancers, actors and actresses.

The orchestra holds three regular concerts every month and 20 special concerts a year. It is composed of some 61 musicians.

The orchestra has participated in numerous festivals such as the Greifwald-Bach Week, where it performs solely works of Bach; the Nordischer Klang Festival, performing contemporary works from Sweden, Finland and Norway; and the International Festival of Meelenburg, a famous summer festival. Its performances are beamed lived on North and Berlin radio stations.

The orchestra is noted for the soft and sensitive sound of the strings, well-balanced sound of the woodwinds, and rich sound of the brasses. In combination, the various sections make the profound and warm orchestral sounds, traditionally associated with German musical groups.

Conductor Kawamoto, who was born in 1972, bested some 150 aspirants to the post. A 1995 graduate of the Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music, he studied conducting with Hiroshi Wakasugi, Hiroyuki Odano, Francis Travis, Gustav Meier and Sergiu Celibidache.

Kawamoto won third prize in the 10th Tokyo International Music Competition in 1994 while still in his senior year. He debuted in 1995, conducting the Tokyo City Philharmonic Orchestra, Osaka Philharmonic Orchestra, and Kyushu Symphony Orchestra. So far, he has conducted the Hiroshima Symphony Orchestra, the Sapporo Symphony Orchestra, the Century Orchestra Osaka. He has also conducted various opera performances that earned critical acclaim. A performance with the Theatre Vorpommern in 2001, conducting an opera gala concert to mark Verdi's 100th death anniversary, led to his commission as the orchestra's principal conductor.

SOPRANO Rachelle Gerodias

Henkel, the violin soloist, has won in international contests including the Queen Elizabeth Competition; International Violin Competition in Seoul, Korea; Tibor-Varga Competition in Switzerland; German Music Competition in Berlin; and International Violin competition in Marneukirchen in Germany.

She has performed with the radio Symphony Orchestra, Radio Orchestra SWFBaden-Baden, Beethovenhalle Orchestra in Bonn, Stuttgart Chamber Orchestra, Puchon Philharmonic Orchestra of Seoul, Florida West Coast Symphony Orchestra, and Orchestre Philharmonique de Flandre in Belgium.

She will use a Giovanni Baptista Rogerius crafted in 1705.

Gerodias, one of the country's top classical singers, is competent, seasoned and has a commanding presence on stage. She studied at the University of Santo Tomas Conservatory of Music under Prof. Gloria Coronel and received a professional diploma at the Hong Kong Academy of Performing Arts. She earned a Master of Music degree in voice performance and literature at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York.

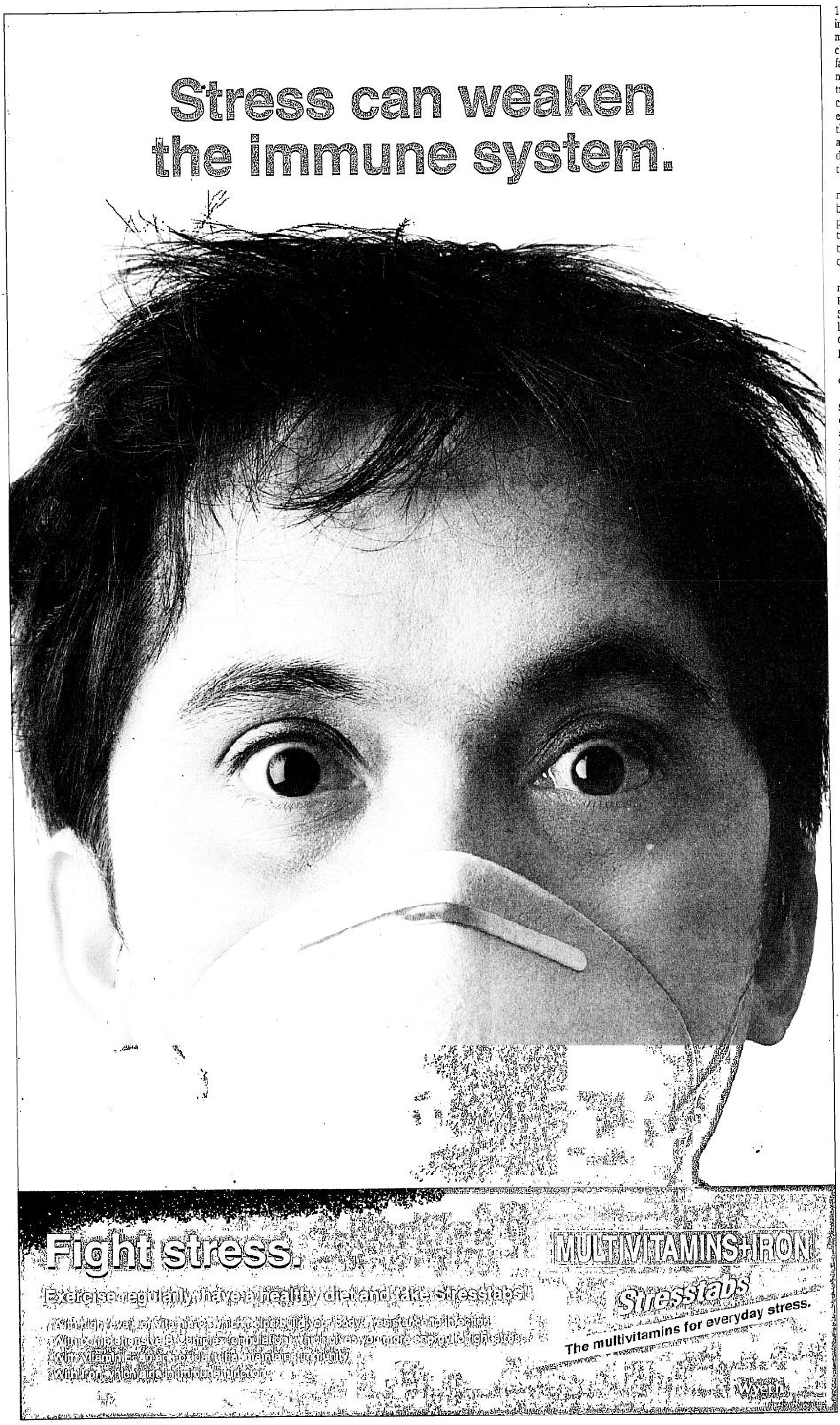
Recently, she sang at the second Pasig Summer Music Festival, an annual event organized by the Pasig City government, through the its cultural affairs office headed by Vice Mayor Lorna Bernardo, and coordinated by Pablo A. Tariman.

Gerodias impressed the audience with her superb rendition of oratorio as well as operatic arias, *lieder* and *kundiman*.

The Toyota concert program will consist of Oberon Overture by Weber, Violin Concerto in E Minor by Mendelssohn and Symphony No. 8 by Dvorak. Gerodias is supposed to sing "Let the Bright Scraphim" by Haendel, "Morgen" by R. Strauss, "Quando Men Vo" and "Mutya ng Pasig" by Abelardo.

Toyota Classics underscores the Japanese car company's corporate involvement in the arts. Last year's show featured the Cadaques Orchestra conducted by Philippe Entremont, with Spanish guitarist Jose Maria Gallardo del Rey and Filipino tenor Leodigario B. del Rosario. Proceeds of the show will be donated to Tabang Mindanaw.

HENKEL will use a Giovanni Baptista Rogerius crafted in 1705.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The scenarist is the undisputed superstar of screenplay writers

Ricky Lee to receive Natatanging Gawad for lifetime achievement

PANDEMONIUM in Ishmael Bernal's "Himala." After confessing her faith-healing was all a hoax, Elsa (Nora Aunor) is shot and borne by a fanatical mob.

By Lito B. Zulueta

ONE OF the more notable developments in the last 25 years of Philippine filmmaking is the rise of the writer. Although the star system remains entrenched, more or less, and the director remains supreme, with or without auteur theory, with or without the megalomania of a Celso Ad. Castillo, the scriptwriter has made headway for both the craft and the trade so much so that the pen has become as fearsome as, say, Mother Lily.

Ricardo Lee personifies the new power of the writer of film. "Himala" may show the force and longevity of the star system in that it will forever be called a Nora Aunor movie, following the "masa" mystique of its leading star, "the true superstar." The movie may also be a display of director Ishmael Bernal at the height of his powers. But the movie is also inexorably a showcase of the writer's craft, of Ricky Lee as animating artistic intelligence.

That's the real "himala"—that a writer in the loneliness of his pen could so overpower his material and its interpretation on celluloid so that the final movie, however they call the movie as the work of its director or its leading star, is also irretrievably its writer's progeny.

There have been high-profile writers of movies before—Celso Carunungan, Daisy Hontiveros-Avellana, Eddie Romero, Luciano Carlos, and even Bernal—but they were invariably more literary than filmic souls (this was true of Carunungan who was a journalist and fictionist, of Avellana who was with theater, and even of Bernal who thrived at an early stage with the bohemian literati), or in the case of Romero and Carlos, more filmic or genre-bound than literary.

It is the particular strength of Lee that having come from literature (he won a couple of Palanca awards back as a neophyte writer), he has found his true calling in writing for the movies. He has dabbled in the different genres of the movies, but it is perhaps his rare achievement that he has come into his own by fashioning movies that cannot exactly be bound by any of the genres. If there's any genre involved, it cannot be called a melodra-

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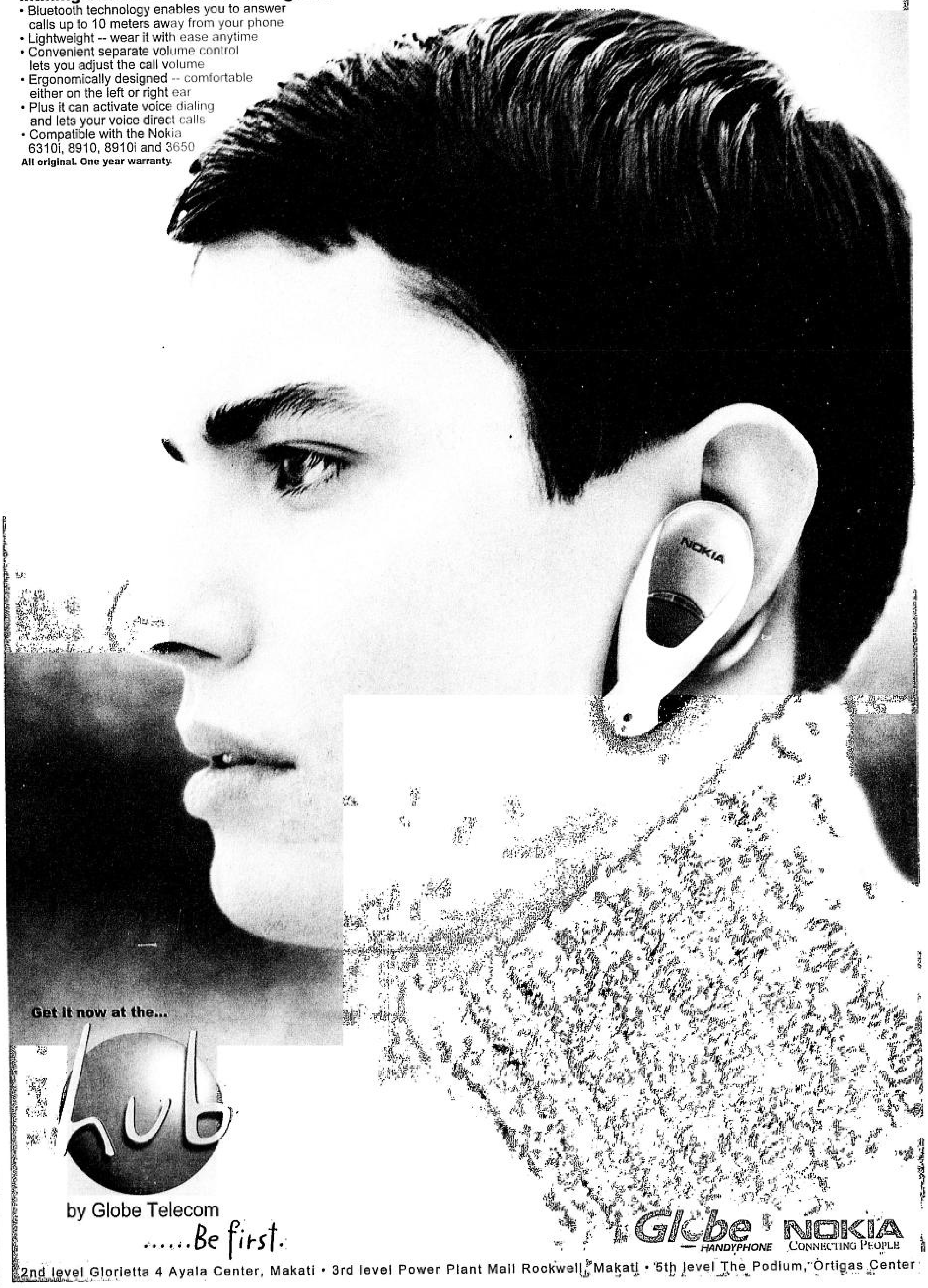

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Ricky Lee to receive Natatanging Gawad for lifetime achievement

RICKY Lee with his students in the Writers Studio, his annual workshop for aspiring script writers

From page G1

ma, an action picture, or a comedy, but a Ricky Lee film.

Prodigious

Because of his accomplishments as a scenarist, Ricky Lee will be given the Natatanging Gawad for lifetime achievement by the Manunuri ng Pelikulang Pilipino during the 26th annual Gawad Urian on May 17.

Lee, who marks his 30th year this year as a writer for the movies, is cited for his prodigious creative output that has covered nearly all of the movie genres. To date, he has written some 90 scripts that have been produced into movies, some of them achieving the status of classics, such as "Brutal" (1980), "Himala" and "Moral" (1982), "Karnal" (1983), "Andrea, Paano ba ang Maging Isang Ina?" (1990), "Dahil Mahal Kita (The Dolzura Cortez Story)" (1993), "Sibak, Midnight Dancers," and "The Flor Contemplacion Story" (1996).

Lee has won the Gawad Urian thrice: for Lino Brocka's "Jaguar" (1980), which he cowrote with Jose Lacaba; Laurice Guillen's "Salome" (1981); and Brocka's "Gumapang Ka sa Lusak" (1990). The script of "Salome" has been translated to English and published by the University of Wisconsin as part of its textbook in film studies.

GANG rape in Marilou Diaz-Abaya's "Brutal"

Lee is perhaps the most famous Filipino scriptwriter today, having penned many of the more notable movies in the last two decades. In the 1982 Metro Manila Film Festival, he squared off against himself when three of the movies he wrote—"Himala," "Moral" and "Haplos"—were nominated for best screenplay. He won for "Himala."

Criticisms

There are criticisms, of course. Some view Lee's works as extremely derivative: "Salome" seems drawn from Kurosawa's "Rashomon," "Haplos" seems a reworking of "Ugetsu Monogotari," "Himala" is said to have some uncanny similarities with an earlier Mexican or El Salvadorean movie, "Moral" can be any of those American proto-feminist movies of the 1970s, "Sibak" is like "Roco and His Brothers," and "Lagarista" has too much of the spirit of "Cinema Paradiso" in it.

There also appears a tendency for his movies to become agitprop, an excuse to insinuate his leftist proclivities (he went underground when martial law was declared and was a political prisoner for a time). He seems to have a ready recourse for all the stock images of socialist realism—the fist-waving, the banner-furling, the Internationale-singing.

Perhaps because of his leftist partisanship, too, Lee seems only too ready to portray Filipino society as malevolent and corrupt, in the irredeemable throes of medievalism. The scathing portrayal of religion in "Himala" is too politically, positivistically correct, but for all of the movie's Marxist materialism, all its protagonist could do in the end is to appeal to something as ineffable and disembodied as heart and feeling (*"Walang himala! Ang himala ay nasa puso ng tao!"*).

Also for all of his overturning of myths and traditionalism, Lee raids myths to provide a rustic ambience and mood to his creations, as in "Karnal," an experiment in Orientalism.

But the derivativeness is perhaps an instance of the intertextuality of much of the media world, as it is to Lee's credit that even if he borrows, he also improves, that even if he derives, he also provides. His leftist, materialist predisposition can also be taken as the reflection of an era best called as the age of ideology. In any case, it provides his movies with a vantage point, a clear position with which to strike at the heart of things.

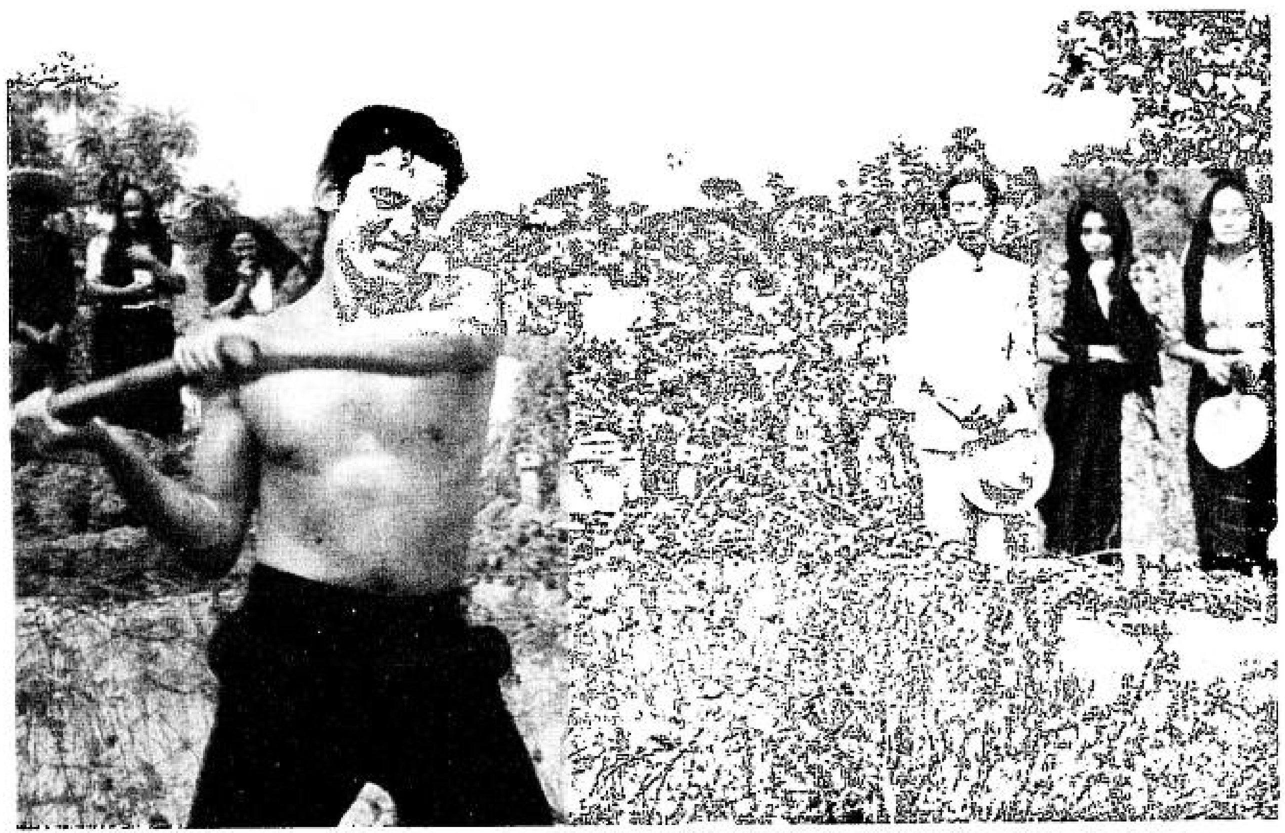
Author

Part of his renown owes to his reputation as having been the first Filipino scriptwriter to collect his screenplays, which have become best sellers. "Brutal/Salome," which contains the screenplays of the hit movies, was the first book of screenplays in Philippine history. "Trip to Quiapo," a how-to book on the writing of screenplays, was also a best seller.

Lee is also a teacher, having been a faculty member of communication schools and perhaps more important, organizing an annual workshop for aspiring scriptwriters. The workshop, called the Writers Studio, has produced some of the more notable young new writers for the movies in recent years.

The 26th Gawad Urian, given out by the Manunuri, the society of respected film critics, will be held at the Camp Aguinaldo Theater in Quezon City. To be televised on RPN-9, the show is produced by APT Productions and sponsored by Jollibee, PLDT Procter and Gamble, Argentina, Sustagen and Head & Shoulders.

The Manunuri is chaired by Gigi Javier-Alfonso. The members are Nicanor Tiongson, former artistic director of the Cultural Center of the Philippines and chairman of the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board; Bienvenido Lumbera, 1993 Ramon Magsaysay Award laureate; Ellen Paglinauan, dean of the UP College of Mass Communication; Mario Hernando, Sunday Malaya editor; Bro. Mike Rapatan, FSC, head of the Department of Communication of De la Salle University; and television personality and print columnist Butch Francisco.



PHILIP Salvador as Narsing, who commits parricide in Abaya's "Karnal"

FROM COMIC BOOK TO FILM

Mutant madness can be 'X'-citing

By Dexter R. Matilla
Contributor

ONE word best sums up "X-Men 2" (or simply "X2"): exhilarating.

When "X-Men" director Brian Singer started production on the sequel, he wanted it to be more than just a "traditional sequel." So it's not surprising that in "X2," Singer lets all hell break loose.

Picking up from where the film left off three years ago, "X2" tells the mutant nation's continuing struggle for acceptance.

Things get more complicated for the mutants after an unidentified assailant, who has the ability to teleport, tries to assassinate the US president. After discovering that the assailant is a mutant, the public panics and pushes for a Mutant Registration Act.

Prof. Charles Xavier (Patrick Stewart) then asks Storm (Halle Berry) and Jean Grey (Famke Janssen) to track down the mutant Nightcrawler (Alan Cumming) for questioning.

The attack stirs the pot even more between the humans and the mutants. Enter William Stryker (Brian Cox), who heads the mutant assault that attacks Xavier's Mansion, disguised as a school for gifted youngsters.

Left to defend the mansion and the younger mutants are Wolverine (Hugh Jackman), Rogue (Anna Paquin) and Iceman (Shawn Ashmore). A plot by Stryker leads to the capture of Cyclops (James Marsden) and Xavier.

Wolverine, Rogue and Iceman escape and later form an unlikely alliance with their archenemy, the newly escaped Magneto (Ian McKellen) and the metamorph Mystique (Rebecca Romjin-Stamos).

Excellent storyline

Aside from the mutants' struggle for acceptance, there is Wolverine's quest to find out more about his past, which is somehow connected with Stryker's.

HUGH Jackman reprises Wolverine, the pivot that holds the story together

Wolverine's character is undoubtedly the pivot that holds both "X-Men" films as he continues to look for clues regarding his mysterious past.

Furthermore, Wolverine's relationship with Jean Grey goes to the hilt as they develop an even deeper connection.

Likewise, Mystique gets to show her witty side (as well as her real appearance) when Nightcrawler asks her why she chooses to keep her freakish look when she could take the appearance of anyone she wants. Mystique answers with a poker-faced, "Because I shouldn't have to."

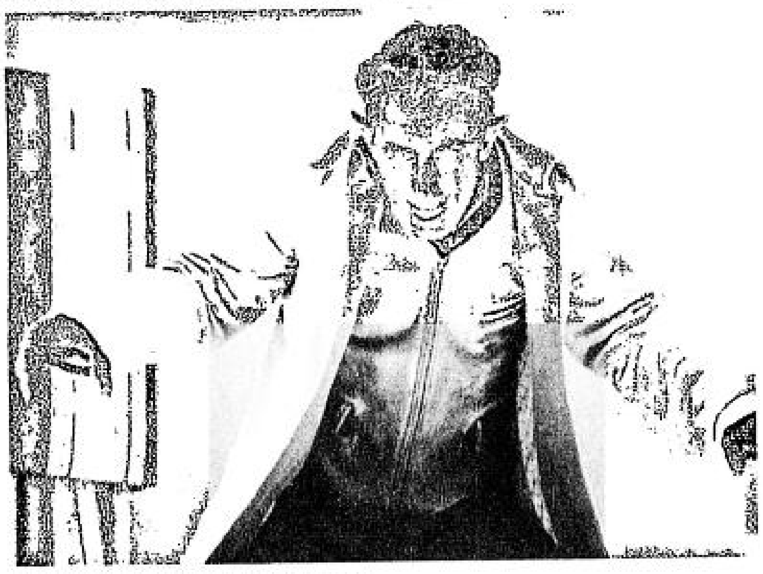
Established as the central story in "X2" is Stryker's hidden agenda against mutants. It will be revealed in the film how the rich and wealthy scientist-soldier blames mutants for the destruction of his family.

"What I love about Stryker is that he is a perfect example of a villain who is not involved in violence or terrorism because of the need for expansionism, or religion or even greed. His hate and bias are based on a deeply personal loss of some aspect of his family. Somewhere in the past some damage was done... some hit was taken... and now his desperation makes it easy for him to engage in war against those he thinks are responsible, " says Singer.

Although his resentment for mutants is clearly depicted in the movie, Stryker employs the service of a mutant aide—Lady Deathstrike (Kelly Hu).

REBECCA Romjin-Stamos as the metamorph Mystique

Armed with her martial arts skills, healing ability and adamantium nails, Deathstrike is an advanced and slicker version of Wolverine.



ALAN Cumming as Nightcrawler

Extraordinary characters

Nightcrawler has definitely got to be the main attraction of "X2." His opening sequence in the film is so amazing that one would want to see it over and over again.

It is quite impressive how Singer and the rest of the production staff were able to bring the blue-skinned mutant's teleportation abilities to life.

The accompanying "BAMPF!"—the sound effect used in the comic book—whenever Nightcrawler teleports, makes it even more appealing.

But Nightcrawler also plays a very important role in "X2," as the X-Men will find his teleportation skills very useful especially in the later parts of the film.

Aside from Nightcrawler, an addition to the film is Pyro (Aaron Stanford). Among the junior X-Men's, Pyro, who has the ability to manipulate fire (although he is not able to create it) is the most volatile type.

Compared to Iceman and Rogue, Pyro has no regard for rules and would rather have things done his way, thus paving the way for his crossover to the evil side.

Other X-characters given a glimpse in "X2" are Colossus (Daniel Cudmore), Kitty Pride (Katie Stuart), Jubilee (Kea Wong), and the fork-tongued Artie (Bryce Hodgson).

Exciting glimpse

Although the film is not exactly a perfect adaptation of the comic book story (since doing so would mean having to cramp all the other storylines into a two- or even three-hour film), it does however stay true to some other aspects of the X-Universe.

Diehard followers of the X-universe would also enjoy "X2" as the film gives a glimpse of a future storyline for the third "X-Men" installment.

Comic enthusiasts who have seen the movie would undeniably recognize Jean Grey's exceptional powers in three instances, the last of which could very well lead to a "Phoenix Saga" storyline.

Other than that, the inclusion of other mutants also ups the ante in anticipation of future "X"-films.

Characters such as Gambit and Beast, as well as longer cinema minutes for the other junior X-Men, should be enough to keep fans on their toes for the film's next chapter.

Blind escape on angel's wings

Debuting filmmaker's work raises questions about relationships encountered by physically-challenged people

Angels
Directed by Ellen Ongkeko
Produced by Star Cinema
85 minutes

By Jose Wendell P. Capili
Contributor

THE UNIVERSITY of the Philippines Film Center has resurrected Ellen Ongkeko's "Angels," a pioneering digital, but-not-yet-released masterpiece, produced by Star Cinema.

Completed almost two years ago, Ongkeko's full-length debut fits perfectly into this year's 14th International Women's Film Festival.

Ongkeko's film weaves poverty, disability and social mismanagement, raising questions about relationships encountered by physically-challenged people.

Torn between freedom and responsibility, Jonathan (Michael Angelo Caangay) often dreams of flying with an angel. But sometimes, Jonathan and his angel fall to the ground because the angel is blind.

Outside his dreamland, Jonathan has a bigger problem: his parents (Gina Alajar and Nonie Buencamino) are blind. The ten-year-old boy has to guide his parents through the streets of postcolonial Manila.

Ongkeko raises many questions as the plotless narrative unfolds: Is it Jonathan's duty to take care of his blind parents and mentally retarded sister (Wena Basco)? Should corruption-infested government agencies have custody of Jonathan? Are blind parents capable of raising a family?

Ongkeko's efforts are trailblazing. She tells the true-to-life story without a formulaic plot, cinema-verite style. Instead, Ongkeko allows her material to take its own form, based on scenes shared and encountered by members of Jonathan's family, reenacted and framed within Manila's lightning rallies and uncollected garbage.

Eventually, Ongkeko resolves Jonathan's dilemma by way of transcendence: the boy remains guided by an angel. His unwavering faith, though initially aimed at achieving social assimilation, gives him strength and leads to his salvation.

Clear rendering

Caangay stands out as Jonathan. It is hard to imagine a boy of Caangay's age to render with so much clarity a character spiritually and materially orphaned. He delivers and has, quite possibly, achieved one of the best lead performances in recent local cinematic history.

Gina Alajar, Nonie Buencamino and Wena Basco gleamingly construct a family's ambiguous relationship to male privilege and power.

When Buencamino's character inflicts both corporal and emotional punishment on Jonathan for running away from home, Ongkeko suggests that even in the most dysfunctional of Filipino families, women are mostly subjugated.

Fortunately, Alajar's character breaks away from the usual gender roles, showing that mothers are capable of reorganizing their family lives such that, in the end, dysfunctional families may reconcile in spite of the individual members' own difficulties.

Likewise, the ensemble acting of Angel Aquino, Soxie Topacio, Jackie Castillejo, Giselle Sanchez, Sylvia Sanchez, Connie Lauigan Chua, Mel Kimura and Peta (Philippine Educational Theater Association) members bears witness to Jonathan's struggle. They led the main character (Jonathan) and his family to find strength and power for a sustained defiance of a society that has become largely dehumanized.

Treacherous system

Ricardo Lee's screenplay takes the audience to a wilderness where individuals from dysfunctional backgrounds are caught in a treacherous system of cultural identities, institutions and representations. The script clearly shows the necessary acceptance of distortion and rupture by the film's focal character. Ongkeko successfully translates this part of the powerful script, as well as the subsequent harmonic reconciliation of Jonathan with his family, on the big screen.

Larry Matic's production design captures Manila's diversity and emerging uniformity. Tagalog hegemony appears degraded and self-destructive against parts of other Philippine cultures and societies contained in Ongkeko's vision of a burgeoning metropolis. Matic presents a dysfunctional, multi-ethnic neighborhood as sublimated art reminiscent of Brocka's "Maynila sa mga Kuko ng Liwanag," Bernal's "Manila by Night," O'Hara's "Bagong Hari" and Jeffrey Jeturian's "Pila-Balde."

Musical director Vincent de Jesus' choice of musical background is neither too distracting nor self-indulgent. By using subtle and almost subliminal music, de Jesus truly enhanced the flow of the narrative.

It is obvious that Regieben Romana (animation), Chito Almacen (sound), Alma de la Peña (director of photography) and Christine Valenciano (editor) worked very closely with Ongkeko. In spite of the film's shoe-string budget, all four artists communicate the director's certitude of vision and ceaseless advocacy. Their technical feat (especially in juxtaposing Jonathan's dream world through animation) supports Ongkeko's allegory about life emerging out of disintegration and near-decay.

From the SRO crowd at the UP Film Center that enthusiastically welcomed the film, many wondered why Angels had been "buried" under Star Cinema's commodified, less enduring cinematic productions. Was it because Star Cinema's bigwigs found the film too ethnographic and therefore, too pedantic for mass audiences? Was it because the film had non-box office stars? Was it because the film was too feminist (both in style and perspective) for commercial release commercially? Or was it because the film director had moved to a thriving career as an executive producer, in a rival broadcasting network?

Whatever the reasons, the film's producers should realize by now that the film is a major cinematic gem. More importantly, Ongkeko is Philippine cinema's bravest new find after Jeffrey Jeturian and Lav Diaz.

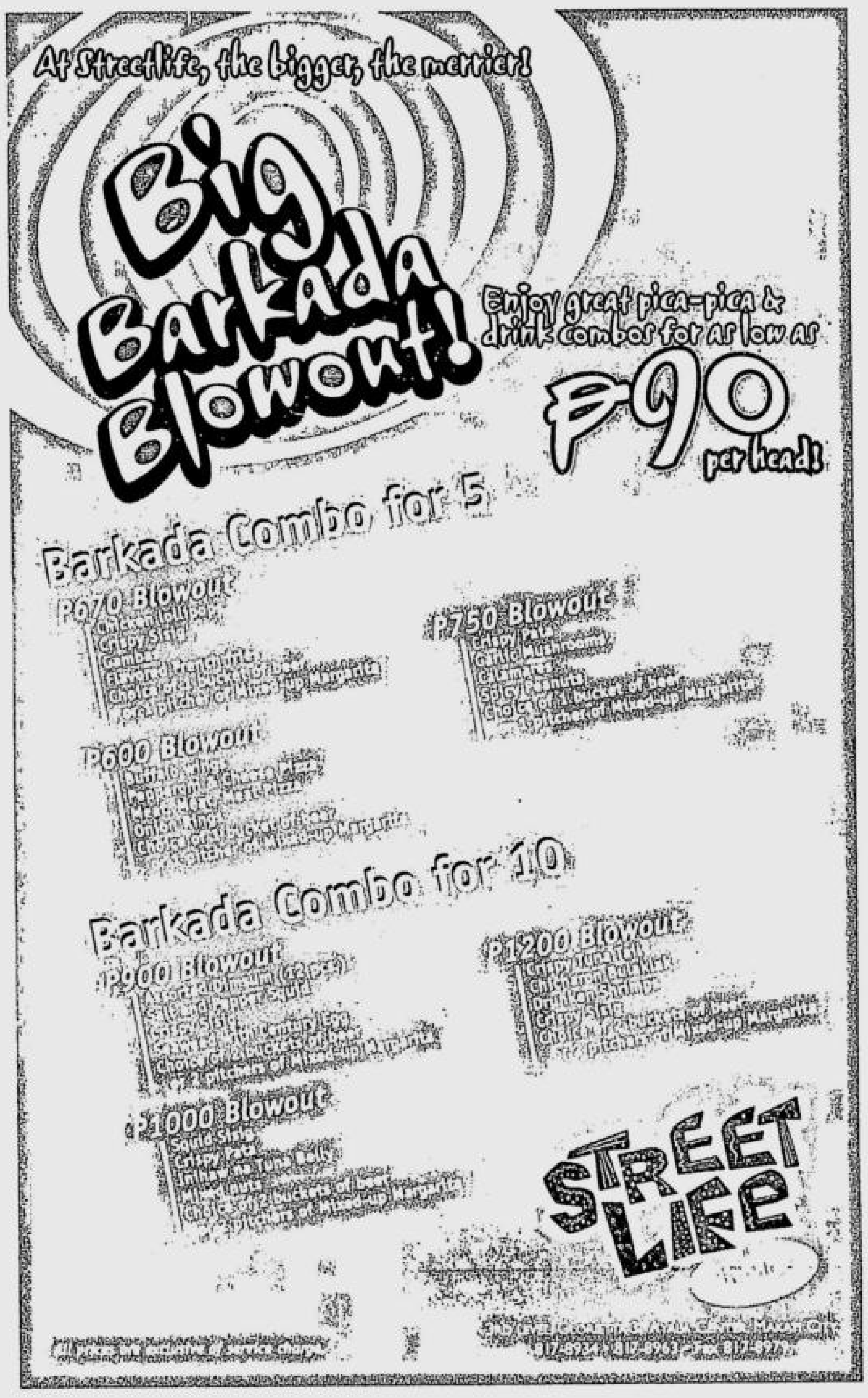
"Angels" deserves to be released commercially. With an additional cost of P800,000 or even less, a digi-movie translates perfectly into any screen. Ongkeko's masterstroke bears witness to the primacy of struggle against a harsh, largely unproductive universe characterized by oppression or colonization.

Cinema One on cable channel is showing "Angels." The next schedule is on May 21 at 9:30 p.m. Check your cable television guides.

MICHAEL Angelo Caangay as Jonathan, sighted son to blind parents

NONIE Buencamino and Gina Alajar play a blind couple amid so much social darkness

THE REAL Rudy, Angie and Jonathan Gonzalo



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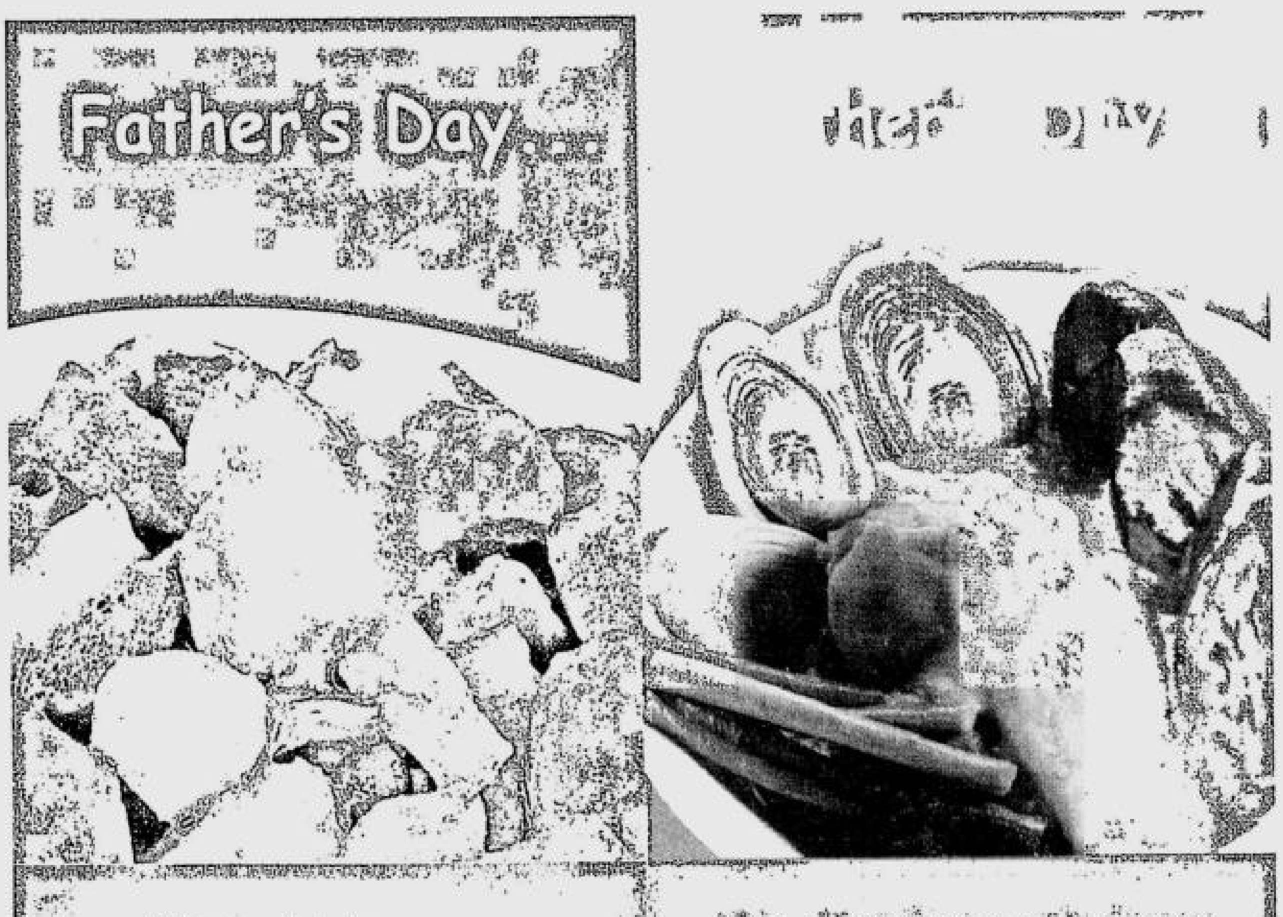

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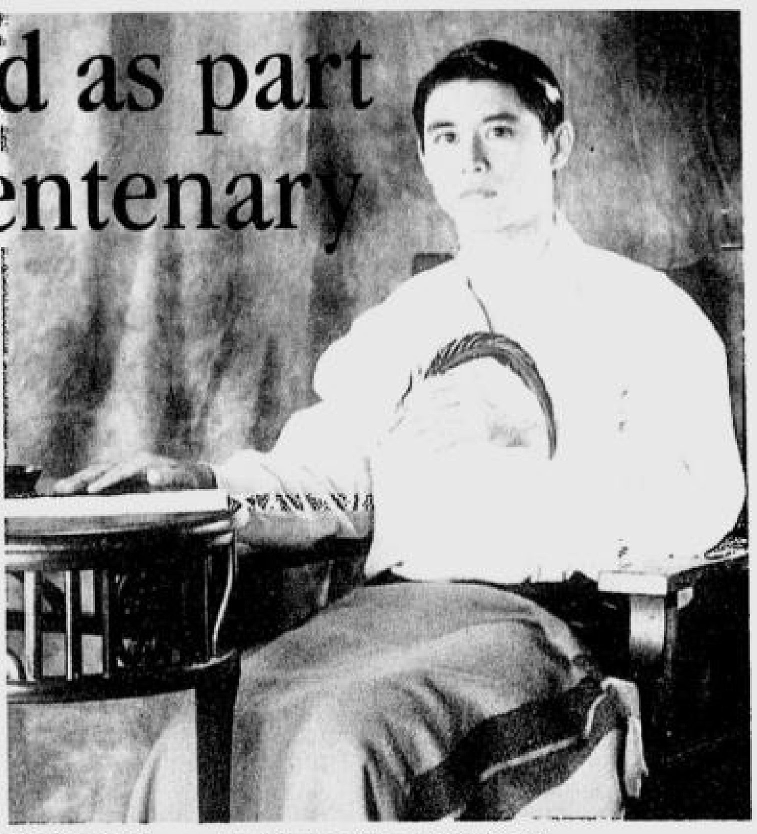
Mabini play staged as part of hero's death centenary



RICHARD Quan as the "Brains of the Revolution"

THE NATIONAL Historical Institute, in association with the Tribung Pilipino Cultural Foundation, is presenting the play "Mabini: Utak ng Himagsikan" as part of the year-round commemoration of the death centenary of national hero Apolinario Mabini.

Written by multi-awarded playwright Rene O. Villanueva, the first in a series of performances of the play will be at 5:30 p.m., May 15, at the Mabini Shrine in Malacañang Park, Pandacan.

The play, which essays the life and times of Apolinario Mabini, features a powerhouse cast led by stage and film actor Richard Quan as Mabini, Brains of the Philippine Revolution. Promising young actor Dante Balboa plays the multi-roles of Andres Bonifacio, Emilio Aguinaldo and Artemio Ricarte.

Other members of the cast are Ermie Concepcion as Dionisia Maranan, Mabini's mother; and Joey David alternating as Padre Valeriano Malabanan and Tasyo.

Directing the play is Jun P. Flavier Pablo, who has handled various historical plays for Gantimpala Theater Foundation including the long-running "Kanser."

Danny Dolor, art patron and chair of the Tribung Filipino Foundation, commissioned the play in 1994. He gave NHI permission to produce the play and publish it in a slim volume that will also be launched during the Mabini Shrine performance. The volume includes a brief biography of the hero and will be distributed free to all public and private schools.

The play, which had its national premiere in Batangas in 1995, will also be presented at the Baluarte Plano Luneta de Sta. Isabel in Intramuros, 5 p.m., May 23; and the San Sebastian Library of Arts in Lipa City, Batangas, 5:30 p.m., July 18.

NHI executive director Ludevico Badoy, who also heads the Inter-Agency Organizing Committee for the Observance of the Death Centenary of Apolinario Mabini, hopes for a large attendance during the first night of the play. He is also inviting Filipinos to attend the other activities related to the Mabini Centenary.

These include photo exhibits at the SM Megamall and SM Centerpoint, May 1-30; Tribung Pinoy concerts on May 13 at the Mabini Shrine and on July 21 at the President Jose P. Laurel Gymnasium in Tanauan, Batangas; and a history quiz at the San Sebastian Library of Arts in Lipa, July 18.

Mabini, also known as the "Sublime Paralytic," served as legal adviser to Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo and Minister of Foreign Affairs in the Revolutionary Government. He drafted the Constitution of the First Philippine Republic and wrote the "True Decalogue," which served as the code of ethics for the revolutionaries and other Filipinos at the time. He died of cholera on May 13, 1903, at the age of 39.

Call 523-1019.

Concert tribute to the 'Sublime Paralytic'

THE NATIONAL Historical Institute, in association with the Tribung Pilipino Cultural Foundation headed by Danny Dolor, is presenting "Alay Kay Ka Pule," a concert featuring soprano Gloria Dizon Coronel and baritone Vladimir Valera of the Tribung Pinoy, on May 13 at 5 p.m. at the Mabini Shrine of Malacanang Park, Pandacan, Manila. Joining them are guest artist soprano Liza Cabahug and assisting artist Julie Mendoza.

The concert, which will feature patriotic songs, famous *kundimans* and classic tunes depicting Philippine scenery and rituals of celebration, is one of the highlights of the commemoration of the death centenary of the national hero Apolinario Mabini.

The concert also forms part of the series of 25 concerts that Tribung Pinoy and its guest artists are mounting to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Tribung Pilipino Cultural Foundation, which will take place on September 26 this year.

The Tribung Pinoy and the Tribung Pilipino Foundation were organized in 1978 to promote Philippine arts and culture, specifically the propagation of interest in traditional music forms such as the *kundiman*, *harana*, *danza* and *balitaw*. It has produced concerts in various parts of the country, the United States and Europe that are well-remembered for their all-Philippine traditional music repertoire, thus elevating native music to prominent concert level status.

Music enthusiasts who are fans of Tribung Pinoy will recall that its first anniversary performance in 1979 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines, "Gabi ng Kundiman ng Lahi," was the first ever concert in that venue that solely featured Philippine traditional music.

Other memorable concerts produced by the Tribung Pilipino Foundation include the first ever concert held at the Culion leper colony in Palawan in 1978; the tributes to Philippine musical greats such as composers Nicanor Abelardo, Santiago Suarez and Constancio de Gunman, lyricist Levi Celerio, and renowned divas Conching Rosal, Sylvia la Torre, and the first Filipina recording artist, Maria Carpena; and the presentations that honored poets Francisco Balagtas, Jose Corazon de Jesus and Balagtasan king Florentino Collantes.

In 1979, the foundation produced "Handog Kay Atang" in honor of Atang dela Rama, queen of *zarzuela* and *kundiman*, who, a year earlier, had been proclaimed a National Artist. In 2002, the foundation again spearheaded a series of concerts to commemorate the birth centenary of Ka Atang.

"Alay Kay Ka Pule," the latest entry in Tribung Pilipino's continuing salute to Filipino heroes, will have a repeat performance on July 21 at the President Jose P. Laurel Gymnasium in Tanauan, Batangas.

TRIBUNG Pinoy's Vladimir Valera and Gloria Dizon-Coronel

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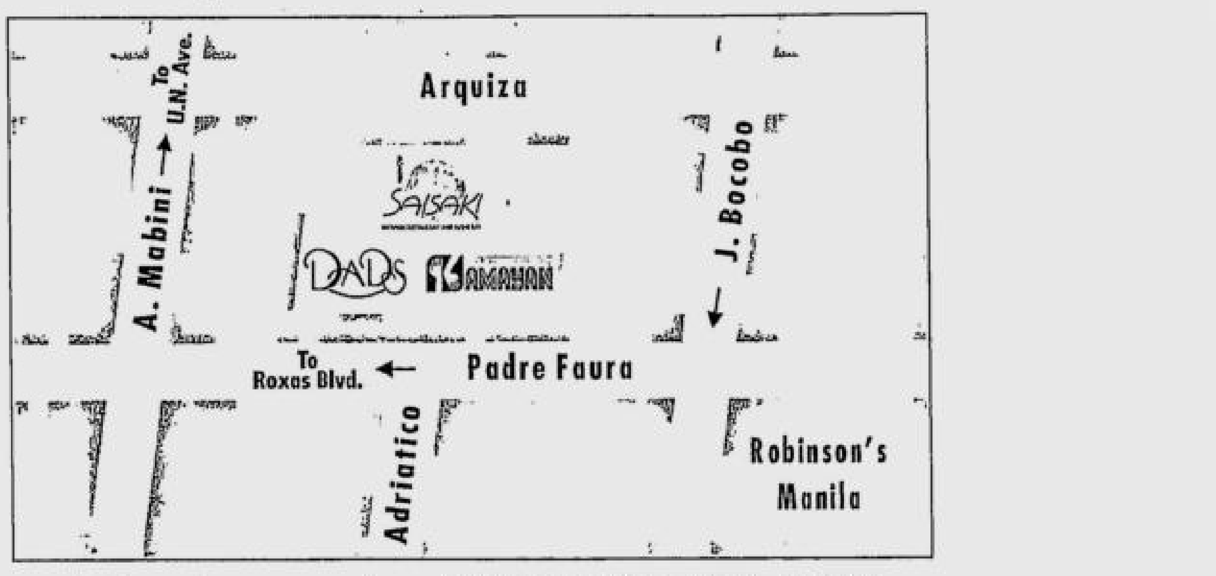

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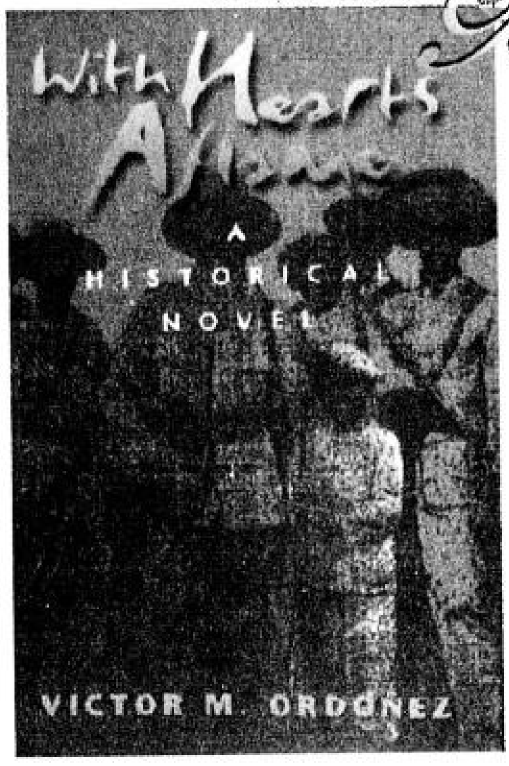


The novel gives insights into the methodical madness of American colonization

Romance and history amid the Fil-Am war ruins

With Hearts Aflame: A Historical Novel
By Victor M. Ordoñez
Anvil Publishing Inc., 2002, 263 pages

By Christine Godinez-Ortega
PDI Mindanao Bureau

THE FRAME for this historical novel is the love affair between the American soldier-spy Willis Thomas Wilcox and loyal-to-her-man Coring del Pilar, sister of the heroes Pio and Gregorio, shortly before and after America wrested control of the Philippines from Spain.

For today's history student, this novel can give insights into the methodical madness of American colonization.

REVIEW

The propaganda about Americans liberating the Filipinos from the Spaniards couldn't be better demolished than in this novel where America's intelligence operations began long before Commodore George Dewey sailed to Manila.

In Victor M. Ordoñez's novel, the soldier-turned-spy-turned-lover Wilcox realized, in spite of his having graduated from the Naval Academy of Annapolis, that his own country had lusted after the Philippines for its natural resources and because of its being an excellent jump-off point for business interests in Asia.

The novel is simply, and often, consciously told in the authorial voice narrative technique. But it remains a compelling read because of good handling of language in the imaginative conversations with historical personalities we are familiar with. The conversations interest us more than knowing what happens between the sheets to the two love-struck partners.

Aside from the letters, dialogue and internal monolog, hardly any literary device is employed here, perhaps to complement the unadorned prose detailing parallelisms between imagined and actual events such as Soledad's dreams foretelling Coring's future with Wilcox.

Beyond the obvious, however, is the tenor of Wilcox's letters to his superiors in Washington about the good things in the Philippines and the natives he has grown to respect, the "good others" as Malaysian writer Muhammad Haji Salleh would put it.

In the know

In the course of his job as his country's spy, Wilcox succeeds in getting the trust of the Filipino elite in Intramuros. Before that, he defended a Filipino mess dishwasher, "the insignificant brownskin," while aboard the ship that brought him to Manila.

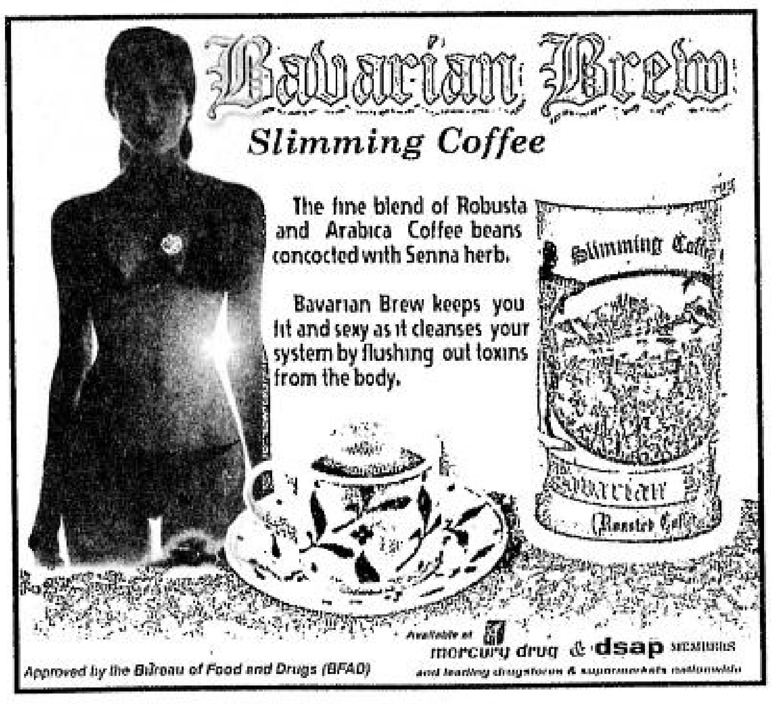
He had also met with Marcelo del Pilar and the Luna brothers in Madrid. That brief meeting with the Indios Bravos was Wilcox's ticket to winning the trust of the Del Pilars and Coring, Marcelo's niece, as well as of Palito, the guerrilla leader who represents the Filipino masses in the novel.

In spite of Ordoñez's balanced views on the American colonizers and the Filipino insurgents, it is clear that his view of the Philippines during the period comes primarily from the social and military elites. The housemaids, the cooks, the guerrillas and the unwashed are the "others," who had to stay outside the fence, in a manner of speaking.

Perhaps, too, Joseph Conrad and Sir Hugh Charles Clifford may have spoiled us, but we missed descriptions of the landscape during Wilcox's travels to the different parts of Luzon and Mindanao as correlative to the rhythms of his feelings for his mysterious and exciting Pearl of the Orient.

And because we are convinced that Or

ROMANCE/ H4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Sunday afternoon. Hangin, out with the guys.

Perfect. Until a text hits from the boss.

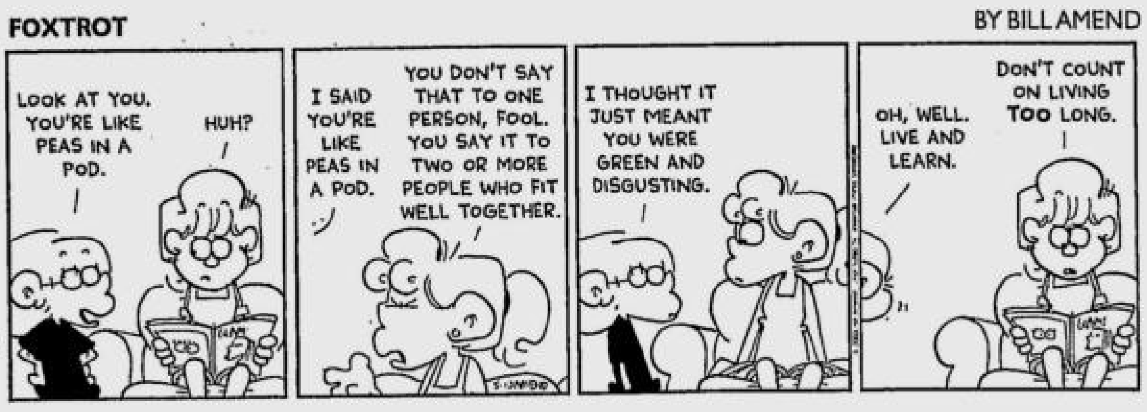
He wants to know product inventory and pipeline status by 6:00 sharp.

Is this how you intend to spend your idle time?

(And you only have a couple of hours to check the online inventory system and save your career.)

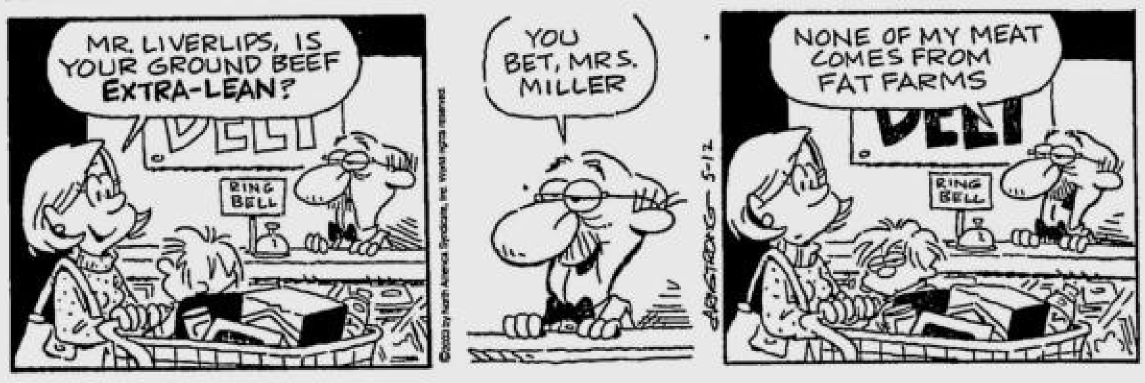
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


LOOK AT YOU. YOU'RE LIKE PEAS IN A POD.
HUH?
I SAID YOU'RE LIKE PEAS IN A POD.
YOU DON'T SAY THAT TO ONE PERSON, FOOL. YOU SAY IT TO TWO OR MORE PEOPLE WHO FIT WELL TOGETHER.
I THOUGHT IT JUST MEANT YOU WERE GREEN AND DISGUSTING.
OH, WELL. LIVE AND LEARN.
DON'T COUNT ON LIVING TOO LONG.

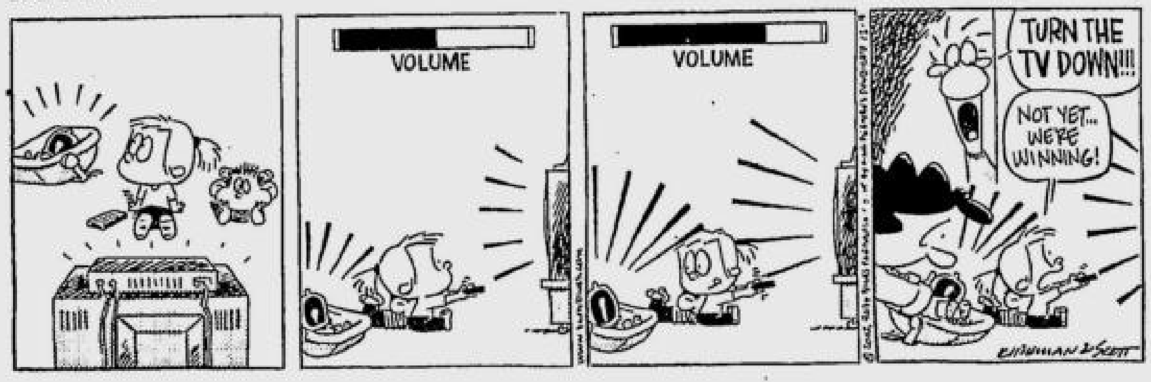
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


MR. LIVERLIPS, IS YOUR GROUND BEEF EXTRA-LEAN?
DELI
RING BELL
YOU BET, MRS. MILLER
ARMSTRONG 5-12
NONE OF MY MEAT COMES FROM FAT FARMS
DELI
RING BELL

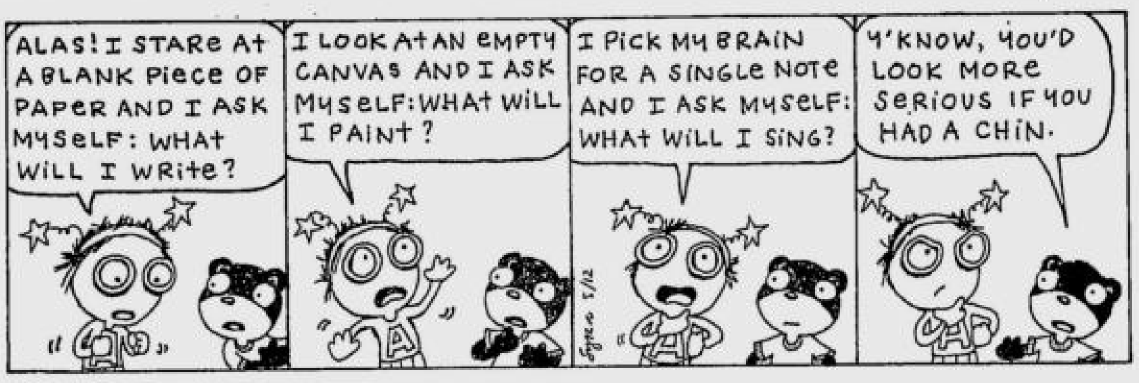
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


VOLUME
VOLUME
TURN THE TV DOWN!!!
NOT YET... WE'RE WINNING!
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


ALAS! I STARE AT A BLANK PIECE OF PAPER AND I ASK MYSELF: WHAT WILL I WRITE?
I LOOK AT AN EMPTY CANVAS AND I ASK MYSELF: WHAT WILL I PAINT?
I PICK MY BRAIN FOR A SINGLE NOTE AND I ASK MYSELF: WHAT WILL I SING?
Y'KNOW, YOU'D LOOK MORE SERIOUS IF YOU HAD A CHIN.
Lyra 5/12

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY You are natural, earthy and playful. People enjoy your company. You are popular in part because you are cavalier, unrestricted and free with your opinions and lifestyle. You like to travel and explore life. The pursuit of any serious study can help you. Expect major changes to take place this year.
Birthdate of: Bea Arthur, TV actress; Harvey Keitel, actor; Stevie Wonder, musician.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Disagreements about money are possible. Better to give than to lend. When a friend doesn't return money, you not only lose the cash, you lose the friend!

TAURUS(April 20 to May 20) Don't clash with bosses today. People are touchy and inclined to tell each other off. Just smile and keep on walking.

GEMINI(May 21 to June 20) You feel bothered about something to do with publishing, the media, foreign countries or the law. There is nothing you can do about this. Think about what is working in your life.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Others might disagree with you about how to use shared possessions or spend a limited amount of money. It's not worth making a scene. Try to avoid this discussion if you can.

LEO(July 23 to Aug. 22) People are touchy and irritable today. That's why this is a very poor day to approach your boss or a parent to ask for permission or approval about anything. Bide your time.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) Feelings of exasperation could cause you to make errors at work. Don't be too hard on yourself. You're doing the best you can. (What more can you do?)

LIBRA(Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Romantic partners (or possibly your offspring) might try your patience today. Your best option is to consider this an opportunity to practice patience. (You can't practice patience when everything is fine.)

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Definitely avoid family arguments today, especially arguments with partners. Chaos and tension at home provoke you now. Be accommodating to others.

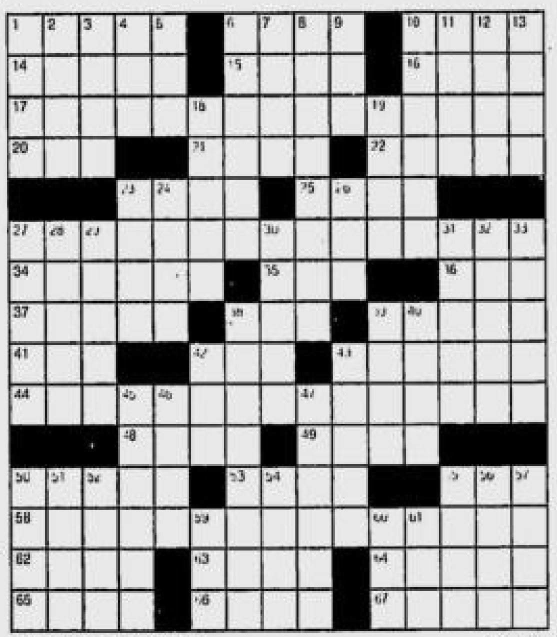
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) In your hurry to get things done today, your impatience could make you accident-prone. Take extra precautions walking, cycling and driving.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) Today you might be doing a slow boil about something. You aren't happy, but you aren't saying anything about it. Try to think of something completely different to restore your peace of mind.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) If you get some physical exercise now, you will burn off some of this pent-up steam and energy you feel. If you don't exercise -- oops -- frogs and toads will jump from your mouth.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) You might feel you have to defend your ideas or beliefs about things today. That's because you identify with what you think. A month from now, all this is history.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR

5/12/03

ACROSS
1 Cyclist Armstrong
6 Manage
10 Hollywood figure
14 Vernacular
15 Iowa State location
16 Agouti's cousin
17 Costume ball
20 French friend
21 Uncool one
22 Irregularly notched
23 Sampras of tennis
25 Fluff
27 Salon extensions
34 Code of silence
35 B&O and Union Pacific
36 Part of AARP
37 Neeson and O'Flaherty
38 God of the lower world
39 Valiant
41 Traveler's stop
42 Soil turner
43 Nation of Conakry
44 Money made at home
48 Uh...excuse me
49 Webber work
50 Muslim scholars
53 Prophetic sign
55 Four-legged toter
58 Equal, e.g.
62 Tab's target
63 Actor Morales
64 "Star Wars" villain
65 Quicken the pace
66 Kinski title role
67 State a belief

DOWN
1 Succotash bean
2 "Bonanza" brother
3 Unless, in law
4 __ au vin
5 Aussie bird
6 Lurch and swerve
7 Sharif or Epps
8 Hawkers
9 Language ending
10 Ancient rival of Athens
11 Starchy root
12 Play parts
13 Comic Martha
18 Essences of alchemy
19 Teller's partner
23 Beauty parlor do
24 Small salamanders
26 Apr. collector
27 Acid type
28 Acid type
29 Actor Reeves
30 Heartbreak
31 Shiraz resident
32 Relative rank
33 Pilfer
38 Large-eared rodent
39 Joke's target
40 Chest bones
42 "__ Haw"
43 Ferber novel
45 Broadway Joe
46 __ she blows!
47 Successful transplantation
50 Cold War side
51 Corker
52 Swelled heads
54 Advanced degs.
55 Autobahn auto
56 British gun
57 Ecological cycle
59 Ready to go
60 Writer Andric
61 Light knock

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

T	S	U	N	A	M	I	S	■	O	C	C	U	R	S
H	O	N	O	L	U	L	U	■	P	L	A	N	E	T
U	N	B	R	I	D	L	E	■	P	E	R	U	S	E
R	O	O	M	E	D	■	■	B	R	A	S	S	I	E
I	R	S	■	N	I	B	B	L	E	R	■	E	L	L
B	O	O	■	S	E	E	R	E	S	S	■	D	E	S
L	U	M	P	■	R	E	A	D	S	U	P	■	■	■
E	S	S	A	Y	■	■	■	■	■	P	I	T	A	S
■	■	■	S	O	C	I	A	L	S	■	P	O	R	T
A	L	I	■	D	E	C	R	E	E	S	■	I	R	E
W	E	N	■	E	L	E	M	E	N	T	■	L	E	N
H	A	S	S	L	E	S	■	■	H	O	N	E	S	T
I	D	E	A	L	S	■	A	M	O	R	E	T	T	O
L	O	C	K	E	T	■	F	O	R	E	S	T	E	R
E	N	T	I	R	E	■	T	O	A	S	T	E	R	S

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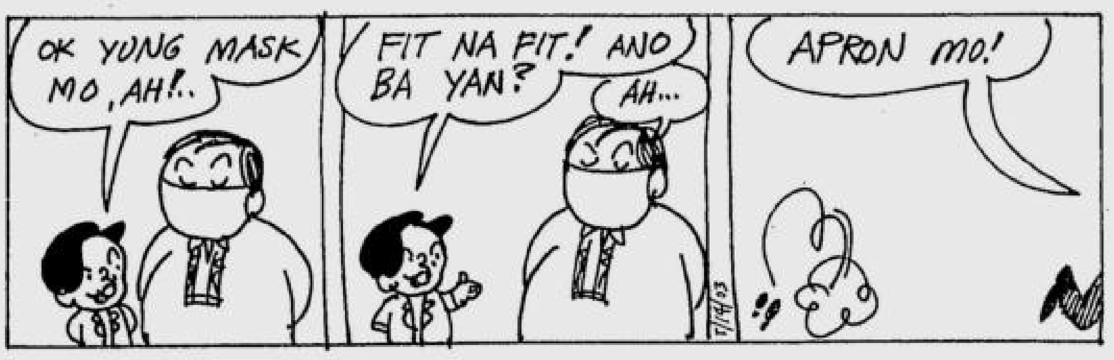
5/12/03

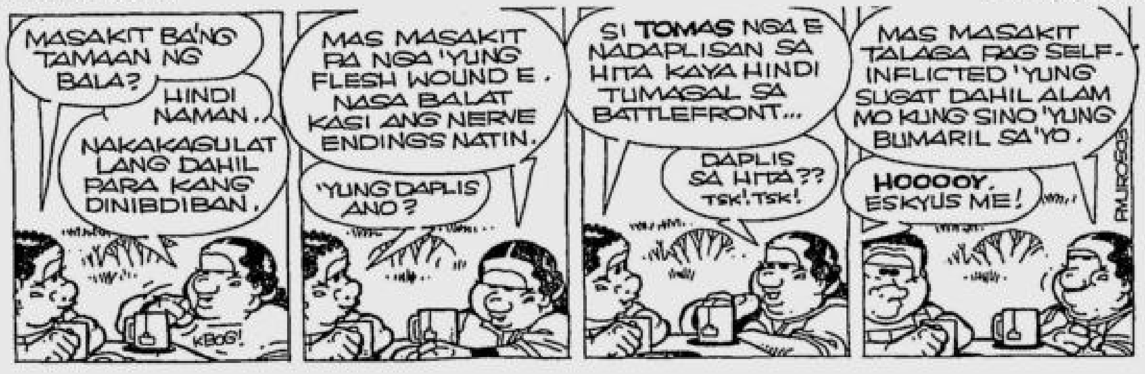
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


OK YUNG MASK MO, AH!..
FIT NA FIT! ANO BA YAN?
AH...
APRON MO!

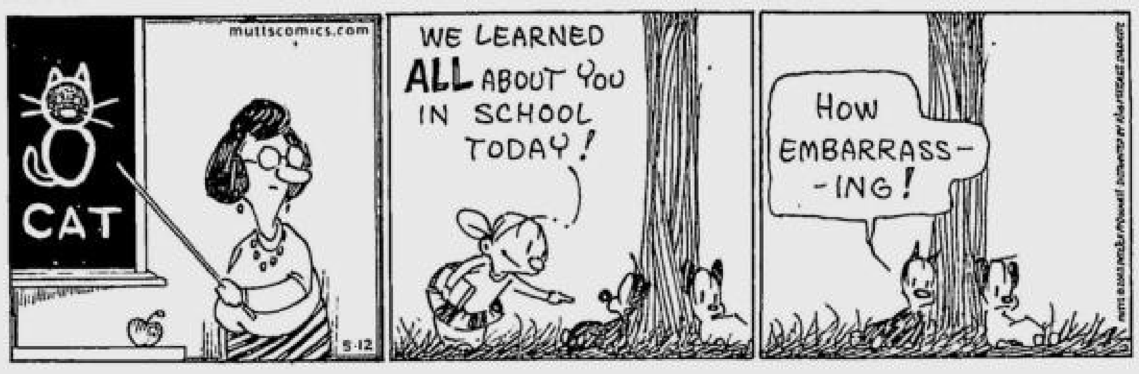
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


MASAKIT BA'NG TAMAAN NG BALA?
HINDI NAMAN.
NAKAKAGULAT LANG DAHIL PARA KANG DINIBDIBAN.
KBOG!
MAS MASAKIT PA NGA 'YUNG FLESH WOUND E. NASA BALAT KASI ANG NERVE ENDINGS NATIN.
'YUNG DAPLIS ANO?
SI TOMAS NGA E NADAPLISAN SA HITA KAYA HINDI TUMAGAL SA BATTLEFRONT...
DAPLIS SA HITA?? TSK! TSK!
MAS MASAKIT TALAGA PAG SELF-INFLICTED 'YUNG SUGAT DAHIL ALAM MO KUNG SINO 'YUNG BUMARIL SA'YO.
HOOOOY, ESKYUS ME!
PMJR0503

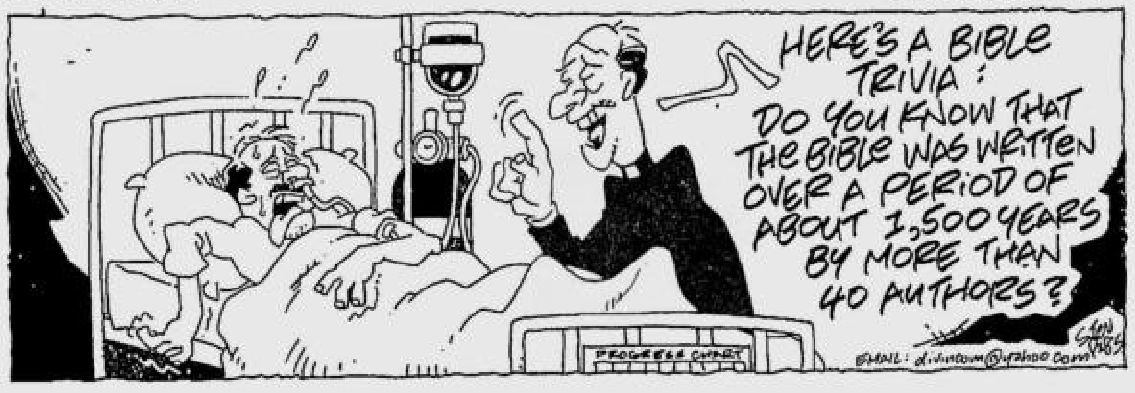
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


mutlscomics.com
CAT
5·12
WE LEARNED ALL ABOUT YOU IN SCHOOL TODAY!
HOW EMBARRASS--ING!

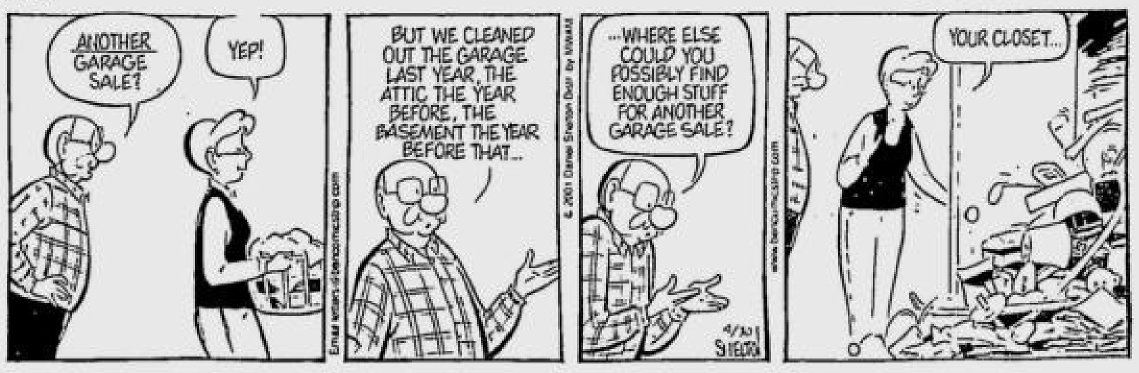
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


HERE'S A BIBLE TRIVIA: DO YOU KNOW THAT THE BIBLE WAS WRITTEN OVER A PERIOD OF ABOUT 1,500 YEARS BY MORE THAN 40 AUTHORS?
PROGRESS CHART
EMAIL: divincom@yahoo.com

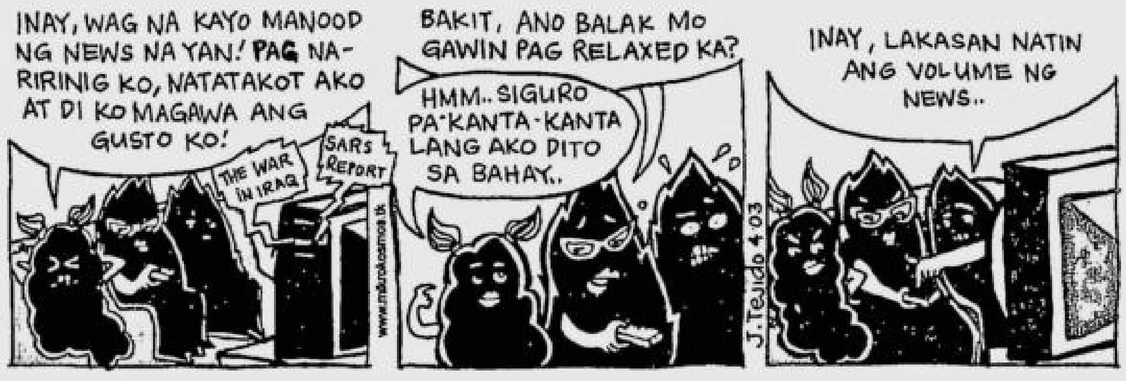
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


ANOTHER GARAGE SALE?
YEP!
BUT WE CLEANED OUT THE GARAGE LAST YEAR, THE ATTIC THE YEAR BEFORE, THE BASEMENT THE YEAR BEFORE THAT...
...WHERE ELSE COULD YOU POSSIBLY FIND ENOUGH STUFF FOR ANOTHER GARAGE SALE?
4/21 SHELTON
YOUR CLOSET...

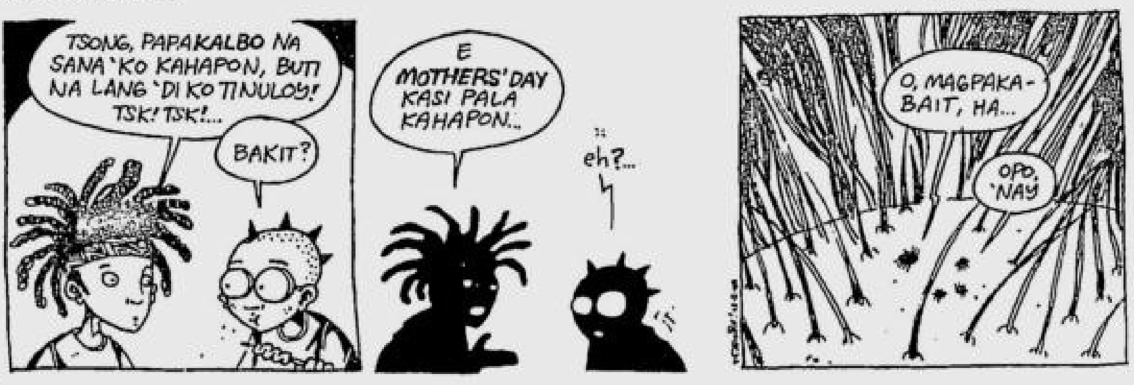
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


INAY, WAG NA KAYO MANOOD NG NEWS NA YAN! PAG NARIRINIG KO, NATATAKOT AKO AT DI KO MAGAWA ANG GUSTO KO!
THE WAR IN IRAQ
SARS REPORT
BAKIT, ANO BALAK MO GAWIN PAG RELAXED KA?
HMM.. SIGURO PA-KANTA-KANTA LANG AKO DITO SA BAHAY..
J. Tejido 4·03
INAY, LAKASAN NATIN ANG VOLUME NG NEWS..

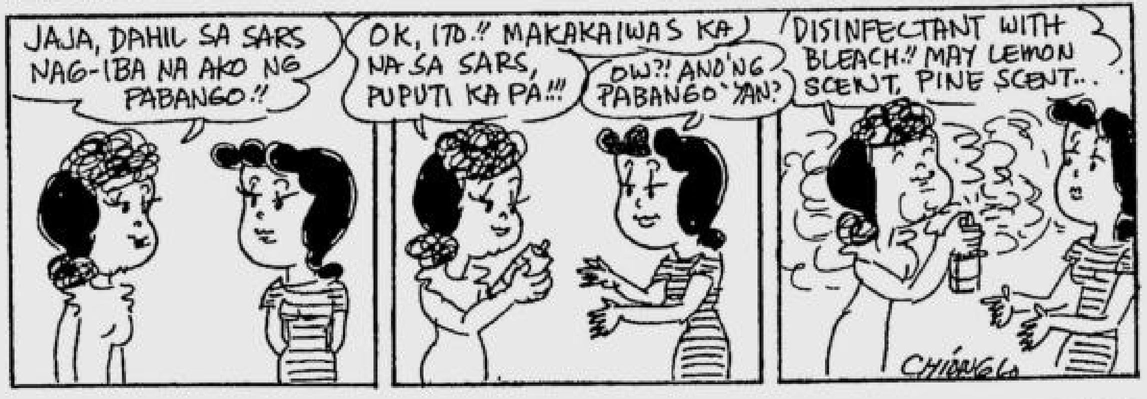
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


TSONG, PAPAKALBO NA SANA 'KO KAHAPON, BUTI NA LANG 'DI KO TINULOY! TSK! TSK!...
BAKIT?
E MOTHERS' DAY KASI PALA KAHAPON..
eh?...
O, MAGPAKA-BAIT, HA...
OPO, 'NAY

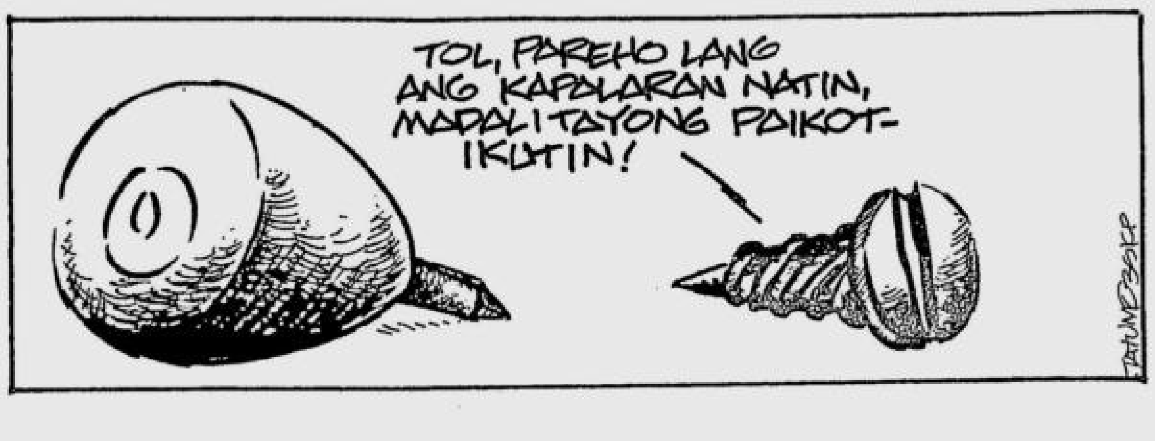
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


JAJA, DAHIL SA SARS NAG-IBA NA AKO NG PABANGO!!
OK, ITO!! MAKAKAIWAS KA NA SA SARS, PUPUTI KA PA!!!
OW?! ANO'NG PABANGO 'YAN?
DISINFECTANT WITH BLEACH!! MAY LEMON SCENT, PINE SCENT...
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


TOL, PAREHO LANG ANG KAPALARAN NATIN, MADALI TAYONG PAIKOT-IKUTIN!

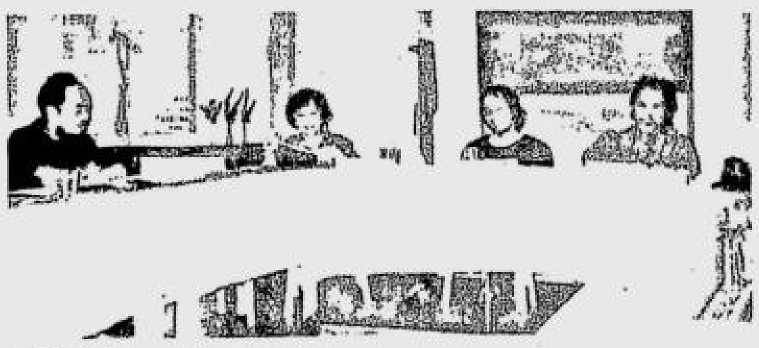
4TH UST NATIONAL WRITERS WORKSHOP

Grudge videoke match, hypertension and other unwriterly episodes

By Eric Melendez
Contributor

WRITERS WORKSHOP
APRIL 6-12, 2003

FELLOWS with National Artist F. Sionil Jose, Ophelia Dimalanta, Cirilo Bautista and other writers



A TYPICAL workshop session

DESPITE last-minute hassles and understandable budget haggling, the 4th UST National Writers Workshop went like clockwork, something surprising for events like this organized by artistic souls whose sense of organization is at best nonsense. It helped that the Center for Creative Writing and Studies of the University of Santo Tomas (UST) had somehow gotten the hang of organizing the national workshop, which has become one of the most awaited summer literary gigs in the country today. Practice, lots of it, mostly misses rather than hits, makes perfect.

We left on schedule this year. I wouldn't have believed that if I hadn't been there myself. We had to leave behind a couple of fellows who failed to show up within the grace period. Seven wearying hours on the road and we finally arrived to a warmer, more crowded Baguio than the one we found a year back.

This year's panelists were Ophie Dimalanta, F. Sionil Jose, Cirilo Bautista, Becky Añonuevo, Mike Coroza, Lourd de Veyra, Ramil Gulle, Vic Torres, Ferdie Lopez and myself.

The fellows were Nathaniel M. Arciaga of Muntinlupa, John Ferdinand T. Buen of Marikina, Chuckberry J. Pascual of Malabon, and Angeli Marie C. Sta. Maria of Parañaque. Also Annabellie Gruenberg-Jose, Ma. Helena I. Reginaldo and Kristine P. Sioson of Quezon City. Likewise Czeriza Shennille S. Valencia of Meycauayan, Eduardo M. Salva of Lucban, Timothy Sanchez of Angeles, Ferdinand N. Cortez of Tuguegarao and Monica S. Macansantos of Baguio.

The fellows were once again a mixed bunch, with some belonging to fields like biology, information technology and architecture, and to closer disciplines like journalism and *malikhaing pagsulat*.

The workshop sessions were as crammed as the past year's. We reformatted the number of works discussed per session this year, though, and I believe this led to more thorough readings and discussions.

Memorable

Among the more memorable manuscripts were of an affecting story of a man forced to embalm his own son, a sassy pop-culture queer piece, countless agit-prop attempts and the story everybody liked until we found out what it was really about.

Two USTingan lectures once again capped this year's workshop. The first was delivered by F. Sionil Jose, who asked the fellows what they would like him to lecture on instead of preparing one himself. The second included a five-minute sharing of each panelist's personal poetics. The result of both was an informal, free-wheeling exchange that ran the course of a writer's experience, from publication and winning awards to getting over writer's block and dealing with pesky writer-poseurs with egos the size of the Philippine foreign debt.

We had our share of grim episodes, of course.

A fellow and I had to rush a panelist to the Baguio General Hospital for hypertension, and another panelist known for erotic poetry took a rather nasty spill near the hotel entrance, sans glamour and eroticism. The spill happened on a Monday: "Monday jolts, and she bogs down,/ A ragbag splayed off at tangents."

The food was trademark Hotel Veneracion. The rooms were a bit better this year. The beds were comfortable and the pillows weren't too lumpy. The only real spook was our bathroom's water heater. Sticking out of its side were wires with a PCB on its end. Soldered to that were a couple of diodes, and a potentiometer one can immediately assume to be the heater's switch. One then realizes the complex and heroic operation required to make the heater work: Step on wet floor. Turn dial. Hope one doesn't cook like a crab. Beginning every bath required genuine atonement, just in case.

Final duel

Eagerly awaited was the videoke grudge match between defending champion Cirilo Bautista and challenger Ophie Dimalanta. The underdog won, by what the defeated champ claims to have been an unconvincing margin. The UST Center is now raising funds for a videoke machine of its own, so that a year-round practice singing can be conducted.

Incidentally, the entire first floor of the hotel was occupied by people reviewing for the Nursing Board. I wouldn't be surprised if, because of what I imagine to have been the very distracting nightly karaoke singing of Ophie, Cirilo and other self-proclaimed nightingales, the flunkers would march to UST, shrieking for our deaths.

We held our farewell dinner at Café Legarda. Ma'am Ophie impressed us with her excellent piano skills. Ramil, Ed and guest Butch Macansantos took turns singing along. The food was good and the mood was relaxed; it was the perfect end to a quite fruitful week.

Oh, and to the successful applicants who chickened out or didn't turn up: it's not as if we scribbled your names down on strips of toilet paper, crammed them into a chicken wire *tambiolo* and picked out fellows at random. We took your sorry manuscripts serious

GRUDGE/ H4

Here you wait again.

Your client promised he'd be there at 2:30.

And you know it will be more like 4:30. If you are lucky.

Is this how you kill time waiting for a client?

(At the same time your Tokyo client has to have your proposal e-mailed high priority ASAP.)

EDUCATION REVOLUTION

'Revolution' gives women a tan

By Butch Hernandez
Executive director, Foundation for Worldwide People Power

Wave members spend weekends under the sun supervising construction of Tanay classroom

PARENTS and Wave ladies get together after a had day's construction.

DO you know why Sophie Limjap, Maur Lichauco, Lucille Villanueva, Rosie O. Valencia, Cora, Norma and Marita Tanjuatco and Rorie Carreon are all sporting tans lately, even if they haven't been spending time on the beach?

The ladies—together with Tessie Amparo, Nenita Banzon, Tessie Benitez, Bambina Buenaventura, Maitoni Cu-Unjieng, Vicky Delgado, Mariza del Rosario, Meg and Pearl Doromal, Mila Enage, Pilar Garcia, Chit Herbosa, Margot Mañosa, Ruby Roxas, Zeny Tengco, Mila Valenzuela and Tessie Villongco—are members of Wave or Women Always Vigilant for Excellence. After they heard of the Education Revolution, they invited Eggie Apostol to tell them about the campaign.

This summer, the Wave ladies spend their weekends and spare time under the hot midday sun supervising the construction of a new classroom they donated to Pantay Pinugay Elementary School in Tanay, Rizal.

Parents of pupils of Pantay Pinugay responded in kind by helping build the new classroom. Right now, Pantay Pinugay Elementary School has two classrooms and two teachers for 120 pupils.

When classes open in June 9, the new classroom donated by the Wave ladies will be ready for use. A third teacher will also be assigned to Pantay Pinugay.

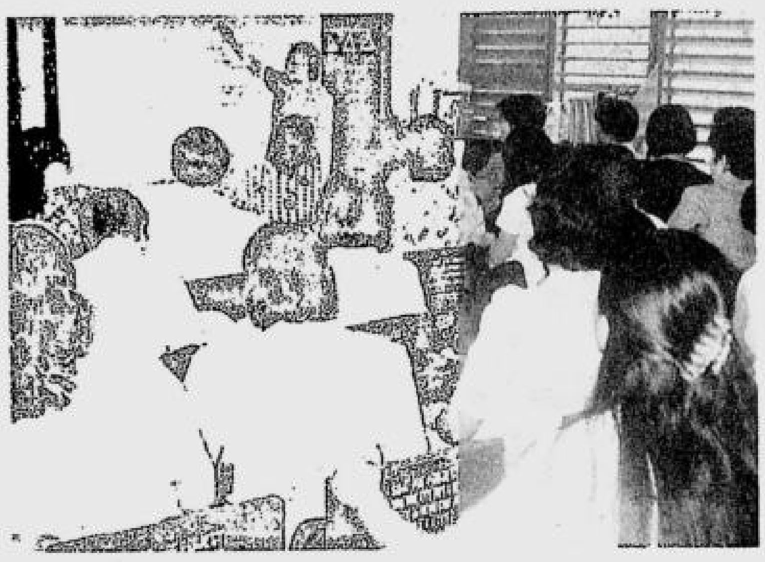
This is just the beginning of Wave's continuing involvement in the Education Revolution.

PTA asks for help

Photojournalist Joe Galvez has been doing other things aside from capturing the news on film. He is also the president of the Bagac Elementary School Teachers Parents Association (Bestpa).

Recently, he sent the FWWPP four Bestpa resolutions seeking support for their school infrastructure projects like the construction of a two-story, six-classroom building and the rehabilitation of the school library.

We're calling on individuals and groups with ties to Bagac, Bataan, who share the FWWPP's goal of promoting quality education in public schools to get in touch with us at 631-4970 or send e-mail to fwwpp@glinesnx.com.ph so we can organize a school adoption team for Bagac Elementary School.


CLUSTER-BASED INSET. Teachers from several schools in East Valencia, Guimaras, hold teacher training sessions together.

Educational acronyms

E-Filermat stands for Effective Instructional Leadership and Educational Resource Management while Inset means In-Service Training. The acronyms are part of the School-Based Management program of yet another acronym: Teep or Third Elementary Education Project.

Teep is the Department of Education's multi-faceted answer to the need to improve the quality of education in public elementary schools. It is a continuing DepEd undertaking that began in 1997. Whoever is the incumbent secretary of education serves as project director. It currently operates in the 22 poorest provinces.

Teep has other components aside from Education Development, namely Civil Works for school buildings; Procurement, Finance and Administration; Project Management and Communication; and Advocacy.

Initially, Teep focused on Civil Works by building new schools and classrooms and rehabilitating existing structures and division offices.

In 2002, Teep gave more attention to education development with the roll-out of the School-Based Management program in 2,298 elementary schools.

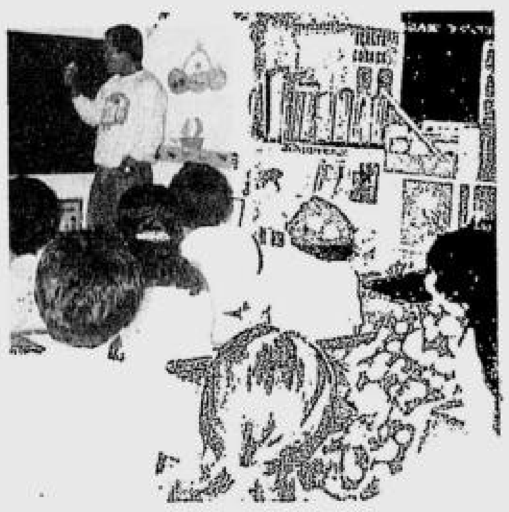
A total of 428 school heads have already undergone training in E-Filermat to improve their leadership and management skills. Public school teachers, on the other hand, undergo periodic Inset to strengthen their skills and improve the quality of their instruction.

But Teep is not without problems. Among other things, it can only avail of funding from the World Bank and Japan Bank of International Cooperation when the national government creates a counterpart fund required in loan agreements.

Teep's focus on education development could not have come sooner. The FWWPP's Education Revolution has been gaining support from communities that believe that well-trained and well-motivated teachers are the key to attaining quality education in Philippine public schools.

However, Teep's project cycle is nearing its end, while there is still much to be done. Will Teep run out of time?

THE SCHOOL head of the Babuyan Elementary School in Surigao del Sur, holds a dialogue with teachers, barangay officials and the head of the Parents, Teachers and Community Association to strengthen the partnership between the school and community.


AN EDUCATOR speaks before the English and Math teachers of Linao Elementary School in Romblon to improve their methods of classroom instruction.

Oh, remember those golden years

By Amelia Lapeña-Bonifacio
Contributor

DO you believe that sometimes the dead reach out to us? Well, it happens.

Like when we decided to dedicate this year's "Papet Pasyon" to the late Prof. Elmo Makil, who was chair of the Voice Department of the UP College of Music and who passed away Jan. 1.

It was he whose voice we recorded when he sang so poignantly the songs of Jesus and Judas as accompanied by the classical guitarist Prof. Lester Demetillo. Those beautiful songs were composed by the late Prof. Rodolfo de Leon. I wrote the lyrics.

We did not know how to reach Professor Makil's family, but one day before we performed in Baluarte de Santa Isabel at Intramuros, I got a phone call from his wife, Lorna Makil.

She told me that she was on a plane flying to Manila from Dumaguete when she read the announcement of the show in the papers. Yes, she confirmed, she will come with her family to see the show and hear her husband's singing voice again.

Well, that was no accident, that she was flying in before the show and read the news on her way to Manila. Her husband had reached out to her, making sure she came just in time.

We had two shows, one at Intramuros and the other at Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Parish in Project 4. In both venues, we received enthusiastic applause from children and adults alike after every song.

Now that this annual show is over, I'm enjoying a breather after many weeks of sewing the clothes of the puppets, arranging and gluing their wigs on and enlarging their features. For my daughter Amihan, who directed the show, and the UP Mulat puppeteers, who did a fine job of manipulating the heavy puppets, the show's end meant no more rehearsals and performances until next year.

Now I must attend to this other project that will occupy every Thursday of my week until we reach the big day of the UP General Homecoming on June 21 at 4 p.m.

We—some 20 Golden Jubilarians from Class 1953—must rehearse the dances and songs for a short script I wrote titled "Dedication." For over two months now, we've been meeting at the second floor of UP Bahay ng Alumni in Diliman and dancing!

Yes, dancing as though our lives depended on it. For we look at the few Diamond Jubilarians still around, already with canes or in wheelchairs, and we know that in 10 years or so, we, too, may no longer be able to dance.

We would like to encourage more members of UP Class 1953 to attend our meetings, if only to show the world that the class that helped move our beloved Oblation to the *talahib* fields of Diliman, that helped many others plant the acacia trees that now proudly line the Academic Oval, that bore the burden of studying in hot army barracks since there were only two buildings around at the time (the College of Law and its mirror edifice, the College of Education), is still alive, active and kicking.

How time flies! Now we look at each other, all white hair and wrinkled faces, and can hardly believe that it has been 50 years since we left Diliman to start our careers and families.

Some of us never left, of course. That verdant 460-hectare campus garden, Diliman of the purest white *talahib* flowers and the blue mountains beyond, is simply too beautiful to leave behind.

Now that I am English Professor Emeritus and my husband Manuel is Sociology Professor Emeritus (with both of us still teaching or doing research), we've agreed that residing as close to the UP campus as possible was the best decision we ever made.

Here at Teachers Village, we are only a song away from the libraries and theaters and classrooms of the university. Most important to Manuel, there's a hiking area, the UP Academic Oval, where he can stretch and walk seven late afternoons a week.

To come back during the homecoming is a joyful gesture. But to help prepare for it is equally important, because it is a chance for us to show how much we value our alma mater.

In the meetings before our dance rehearsals, our chair, lawyer Eduardo C. Tutaan, repeatedly asks for donations of computers to UP, aside from advertising commitments and capsule class histories for the homecoming book.

Being the only writer from the College of Liberal Arts, I have been asked to write the script and the history for Class 1953. What can you do when the only two other writers, Andres Cristobal Cruz and Rony V. Diaz, are too busy to attend the meetings?

I miss Joe Joya who was my cochair when we were Ruby Jubilarians 10 years ago. I only wish National Artist Napoleon Abueva and the other fine arts graduates, as well as our other batchmates, will come to join us. Our meetings and rehearsals can be loads of fun!

See how lawyer Marcelino C. Ilao and Remedios Santos-Serrano can still do the tango, how engineer Benjamin V. Aquino and Dr. Carmencita Salvosa-Loyola can perform an energetic boogie-woogie.

Ever since Lydia Buendia, our livewire dance *maestra*, gave up on synchronizing our steps—meaning, we are now free to lock elbows and turn around when we want to, or *not* turn around because we feel dizzy—*ay*, it's been total freedom!

Do call the UP Alumni office at 920-6868 if you wish to join us, or just come to the second floor of Bahay ng Alumni. Our meetings are held every Thursday at 1:30 p.m. Let's renew friendships and make new ones.

UP Golden Jubilarians Class 1953: (standing, from left) Judge Jose F. Racela, Jose B. Viado Jr., Marcelino C. Ilao, Benjamin V. Aquino, Manuel Q. Lim Jr., Rosalino Reyes Jr., Edilberto C. Gamboa, Fausto C. Aguino, Dr. Rodolfo P. de Guzman, Dr. Ernesto V. Valdez, Dr. Augusto Santos Ocampo; (seated) Milagros Buenaseda-Robles, Myra Reyes-Gamboa, Remedios Santos-Serrano, Professor Emeritus Amelia Lapeña-Bonifacio, Judge Eduardo C. Tutaan, Dr. Carmencita Salvosa-Loyola, Rosario E. Espeleta and Lina Javelosa-Esquivel

Romance and history . . .

From page H1

doñez's novel is for Filipinos, including Mindanaoans, the stereotypical details of Zamboanga—the *vinta*, *kris*, *durian* and *malong*, erroneously referred to as women's skirt in the novel—are not enough to give authenticity to setting and manners.

It is likewise difficult to draw the line between what is fact and fiction here because, often enough, there is inconsistency and little preparation for us to accept the writer's taking liberties on known facts in a novel touted as historical.

Selectivity of details that would convince us of the emotional and intellectual makeup of a character in relation to his time and world sets the writer apart from the propagandist. In this novel, Ordoñez creates a physical world for his characters who follow a linear progression of time, and we believe he cannot, under the guise of fiction, just change factual information without the right signals, whatever his intentions may be.

Omniscience

Ordoñez presents Wilcox as a reluctant spy and, later, as a man searching for completeness in his life through his love for a Filipino woman. What makes us less appreciative of this is Wilcox's omniscience.

He seems to be unbelievably everywhere, playing a significant role in major historical events and with incredible access to our revolutionary heroes who appear at times as naïve and at best as Pollyanas.

José Rizal, for instance, on the eve of his execution, trusts Wilcox so much that he gives the American the lamp where he has hidden "My Last Farewell."

Ordoñez may have been inspired by historical accounts of Rizal telling his youngest sister Soledad in English, "There's something in it," about the lamp. In a roundabout way in the novel, Soledad gets hold of the poem from Coring, wrapped in a handkerchief.

In contrast, Alfred Yuson's novel, "Great Philippine Jungle Energy Café," recreates history and myth in a metaphysical universe he invents for his characters. In that time and world, we accept the marriage of the hero Leon Kilat to Pilar when, in fact, Kilat had no known girlfriends and was never married.

Although tone throughout Ordoñez's novel is both serious and masculine, especially the details about the strategies of war and combat, Ordoñez turns romantic when he shows how a foreigner in love does everything to conquer a native woman.

We think this is going to be another cliché, but we are relieved that in the first night of intimacies between Coring and Wilcox, Coring takes charge, not without a touch of the comic here, for the youth of today's generation, anyway.

For all of Coring's sensuality as evidenced by her long, dark hair, the smell of coconut oil punctuates a passionate night with Wilcox. To a foreigner like Wilcox, this aspect of a Filipino woman's toilette and everything else about her symbolizing the Philippines is exotic.

Granted that the writer has control over his material, still we would've wished that Ordoñez had made the star-crossed love affair the true centerpiece of the novel, to keep our own fervor burning over their twin hearts constantly aflame in our mind.

Grudge . . .

From page H3

ly, spent scarce resources taking you in, and ended up wasting slots that could have gone to more earnest applicants. You're the reason administrators feel workshops are a waste of funds, for the flighty-nuts image people conjure when they think of writers. You could have traipsed to UST in bright orange bell-hop clothes, pulled out a cheapo imitation Sony boom box, done a Romany organ-grinder jig and gotten the same spit bucket regard we have for you now. What's worse, you guys stood up two premier poets and a National Artist. Hell hath no fury, folks. Better drop the writing dream and take up Malacology instead.

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Big prints demand big vision

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WHEN it comes to large format printing, users demand higher image quality, but also the fastest possible printout. But most printers do only an improvement in print quality, and when subjected to a higher printout speed, the quality generally results to a loss—and vice versa.

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The core of Canon's latest original achievement is its MicroFine Droplet Technology—a result of high precision manufacturing technology for the head and a completely new ink-firing system.

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Use of 1/6 density Photo Cyan and Photo magenta in addition to CMYK maximizes the potential of the latest in high-precision head drive technology, which enables high-precision discharge of the micro-size ink droplets. What you get is smooth gradation with no granularity.

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The 330ml ink tanks for each color (130ml for the W7250) are designed for large-volume printing. Productivity is further enhanced by a tubing system that allows ink to be supplied continuously from the ink tank to the print head.

Smart chips save ink

A smart chip mounted inside each ink tank record the ink level so you can replace an ink tank with a full one. If any ink remains in the removed tank, the smart chip memorizes the level, allowing use at a later date.

The W7200 and W7250 feature a full-front operation so that all operations are performed at the front—from pressing the buttons to media feed and retrieval. It has a multi-interface, full network support; color management to meet professional needs, all packed in a compact, lightweight and contemporary design.

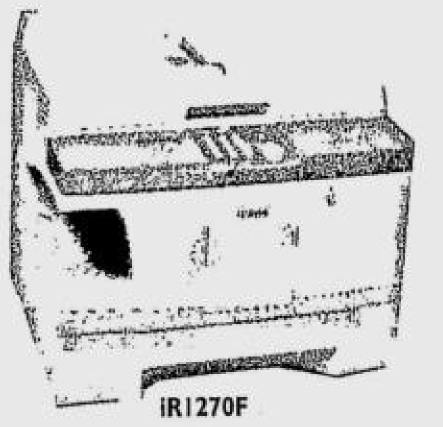
Great size, beautiful quality, high speed: the BJ-W9000

Handing media of up to 43 inches, the BJ-W9000 is just perfect for posters, banners, or large POPs.

Printing a full size poster in six colors at 1200dpi, you'll even have it at an incredible seven minutes. Indeed, Canon has designed the BJ-W9000 for absolute de-

BIG/14

The 36" W7200 and 24" W7250 professional spec large format printers are the peak of Canon's leading edge print technologies



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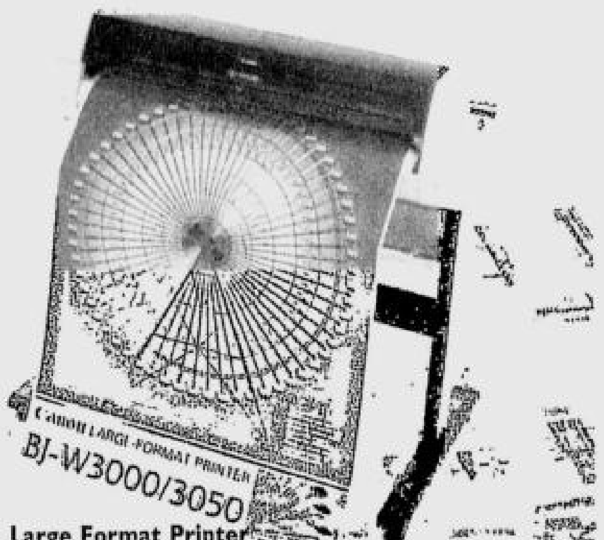

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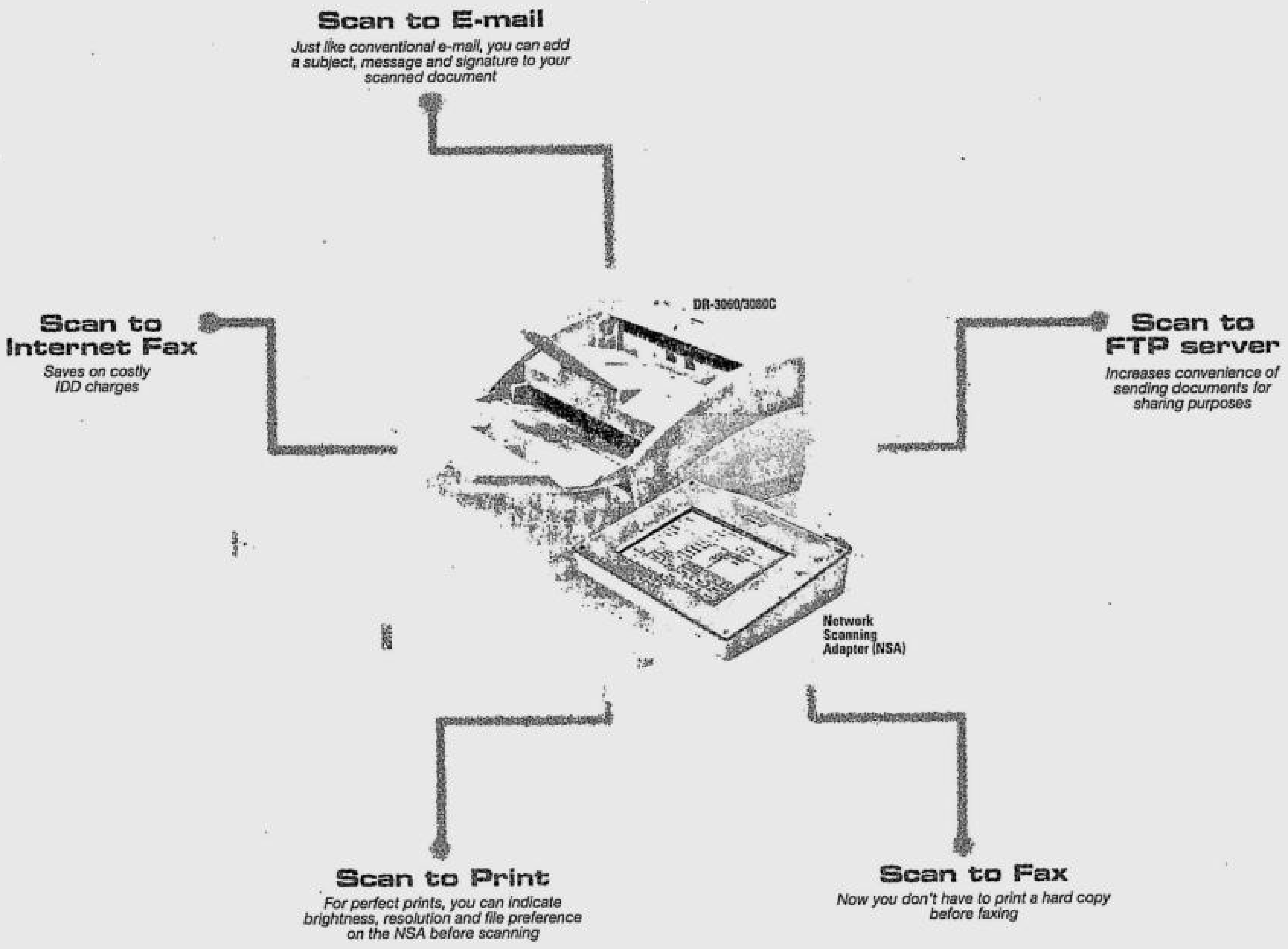

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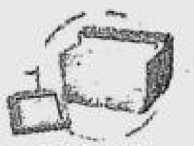
Monochrome



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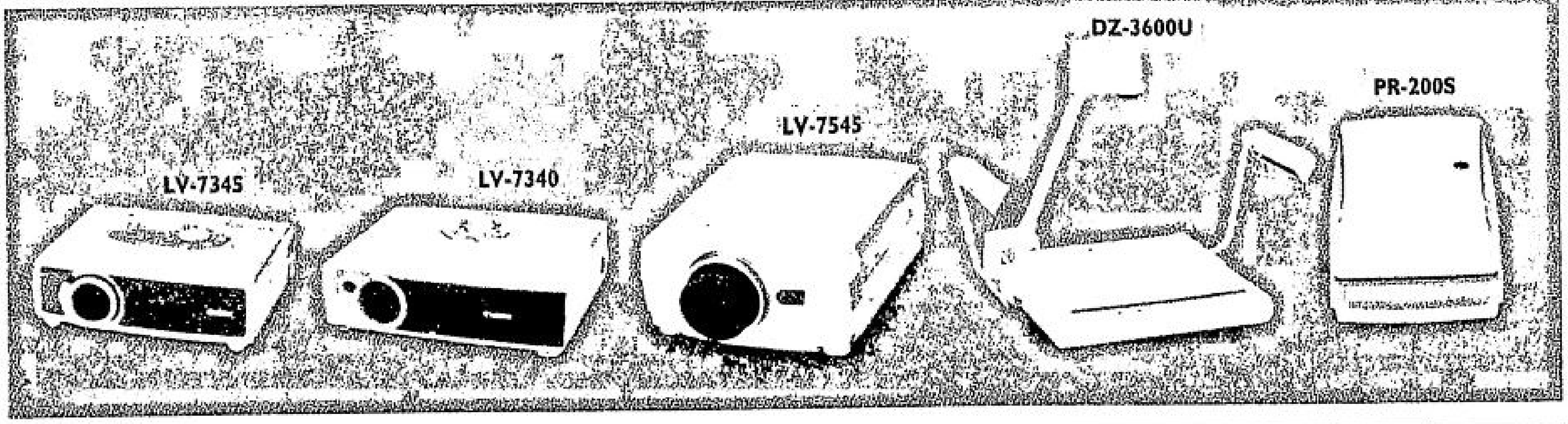
A closer look into Canon LCD Projectors



Leading the race to innovations in technology is Canon who makes sure every office presentation done through its cutting-edge LCD Projectors is unforgettable

NOT so long ago, the LCD projectors available in the market were bulky, cumbersome, and the image projected is terribly poor—to the disappointment of users.

But thanks to the dizzying speed of technological innovation and constant upgrade, LCD Projectors today are a lot smaller, lighter and brighter.

Leading this high-tech race is Canon, one of the world's biggest, leading multimedia corporations whose roots come from its long, world-renowned camera-making expertise.

Certainly, Canon's more than 60 years experience as a pioneering camera-maker worked well to the development of comprehensive range of LCD projectors and presentation peripherals that provide the ultimate solution to all your presentation needs. And as always, behind each solution lies a solid foundation of technological breakthroughs.

Technologies behind Canon LCD Projectors

Canon LCD Projectors come in LV – 7545, LV-7340, LV-X1, and LV-S1 models. All of them possess the following features that will allow each presentation you make unforgettable.

Canon LCD Projectors have a new, exclusively designed optical box that features Clear Prism and Free-Surface Mirror technology, that result in a more efficient process of projecting images than those offered by conventional models.

The Clear Prism offers two key advantages over "conventional, cross-diachronic prisms"—the parts of the image do not all intersect at one point, eliminating the appearance of faint vertical lines on the projected image. And no two LCD panels face each other, preventing the unwanted transmission of light onto an opposing panel, which can disrupt operation.

On the other hand, the Free Surface Mirror helps minimize the number of parts used to process red light inside the optical box. It also contributes to a lighter, more compact body, which is essential for portability.

Canon's innovative **Turbo Bright System** offers the right picture quality in any situation. It has two brightness modes—"true color" for superior color reproduction and "brighter" for clear images when room lights are on a brighter projection without increasing power consumption.

Each of the new LV-Series multimedia projectors allows users to adjust image quality. Images can be optimized according to projected content and lighting conditions.

Unlike composite video, component video keeps the various elements of the video signal (i.e., luminance and color information) separate which result to the better picture quality and compatibility with DVD and HDTV.

For better picture quality, video content is clearly projected and interference (such as that caused by pinstriped clothing or intricate line patterns) is eliminated; subtle flickering is also prevented.

The high quality of the component video connection makes it ideal for projecting DVD and HDTV content.

Digital Visual Interface (DVI) is a high-speed interface that provides a digital-to-digital connection between PC and projector, avoiding the signal conversion steps required by an Analog RGB interface.

For a clearer picture, DVI connection includes a pixel clock to accurately reconstruct the timing information of the digital signal—that's why there's no image flickering, blurred lines, ghosting or coloration problems with text display.

And one more thing, all Canon LCD Projectors are plug and play, the projector automatically identifies the PC signal, allowing easier setup.

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LV-S2: 1,000 ANSI Lumens. True SVGA, 2.9kg.

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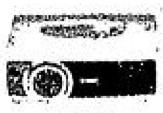

LV-X2
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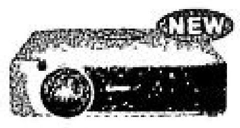

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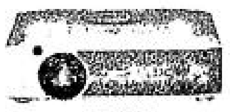

LV-7350
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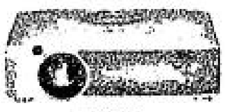

LV-7355
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True XGA, 4.3kg

LV-7545
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PR-210X
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Canon's Document Scanners deliver office efficiency and productivity

These office tools are something you crave for in your office—they let you file, consolidate, and even categorize each office document efficiently and in a digital format to make information more accessible. The result is increased efficiency and enhanced productivity.

THE birth of computers heralded the advent of a paperless office or society for that matter. Decades after the encompassing eventuality of computers, we're still deeply merged in a paper-riddled living and office, that is. So, we can't get away from using paper after all.

Fortunately, this scenario is slowly changing, thanks of course, with Canon's Document Scanners.

Equipped with highly advanced features that answer just about each and every document scanning need imaginable, Canon Document Scanner are getting the most out of information to more people while making the use of paper a lot less.

Canon Document Scanners lets you file, consolidate, and even categorize each office document efficiently and in a digital format to make information more accessible in the office through a network. The result is increased efficiency and enhanced productivity. Let's see why Canon's Document Scanners will just do the above.

Canon's Document Scanners are compact and user-friendly and you can scan with color.

Compact in size yet big in performance, the DR-3060 and 3080C is your first step to improved document management in your office.

With simplex and duplex scanning, high precision feeding, and the Scan panel for easy operation, you get a wealth of versatile features to boost your office's document scanning efficiently.

Canon's Document Scanners have diverse scanning modes for various applications.

The DR-3060 and 3080C help you create image file that best match your needs. Choose between Black $ White (Binary). mode at speeds of up to 40ppm, or 256-level Grayscale mode for documents with photos.

Canon's Document Scanners give out clear, legible data through Text Enhancement.

The quality of image files is greatly improved even if the image files are derived from poor conditions like colored backgrounds, light-colored lettering, or documents filled out in pencil.

Other features include: color dropout for improved OCR (DR-3080C only), scan panel and pre-scan function, Efficient scanning of one and two-sided documents, Compatibility with carbonless, pressure-sensitive paper, and registration of up to 20 sets of user preferences.

Check out these all-in-one solutions for an all-new workflow

CD-4050/4050N CD Document Recorder

Document management has never been this easy.

With Canon's innovative CD-4050 and CD4050N, your scanned documents can now also be recorded onto CD-Rs—a standard, cost effective means of storage. Plus, you can send files immediately via your office network or e-mail.

Easy touch panel operation

At the core of this multi-tasking agent is a convenient, easy touch panel.

All operations can be accessed through the 6.5 –inch color touch panel-indexing, page review and retrieval, rotate, enlargement, reductions—definitely a lean, mean, flexible machine.

Plus you'll also get to enjoy add-ons like the Canon Endorser ED500 that can print on small sized paper such as bank checks. It can print dates, serial numbers, even stamps.

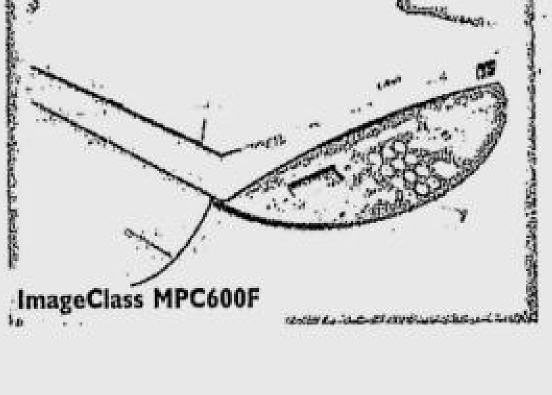
Truly, this is the faster, easier way to scan, store, and share documents.

Scan in any situation with the DR-4080U

Designed to meet a broad range of user needs, the DR-4080U is equipped with a variety of features, which make it ideal for day-to-day document management. Whether it's a quick scan of a large stack of papers or convert book pages into image data, you'll get the twin benefits of 45ppm high-speed scanning and a host of productivity-boosting capabilities.

These include fast scanning plus duplexing, diverse paper-feeding capability and up

DOCUMENT/P4



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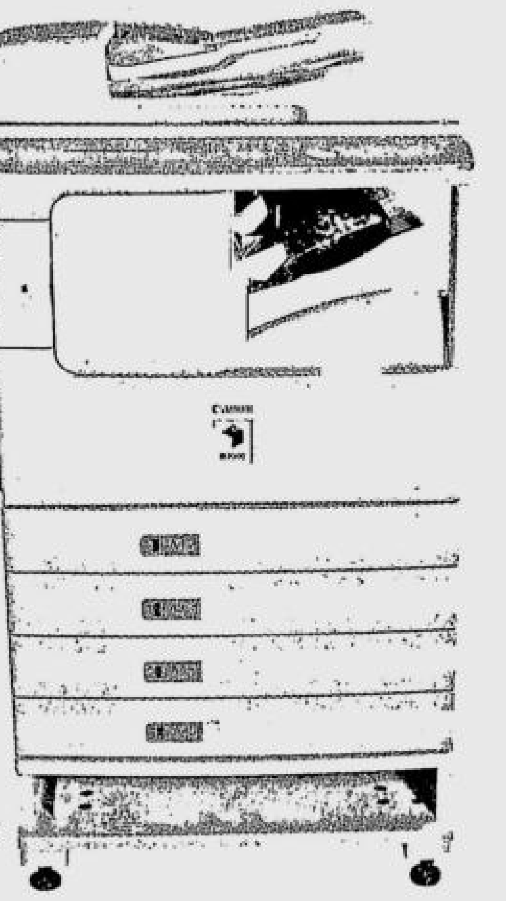

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Promo Period: March 21 - May 31, 2003

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0617 Series of 2003

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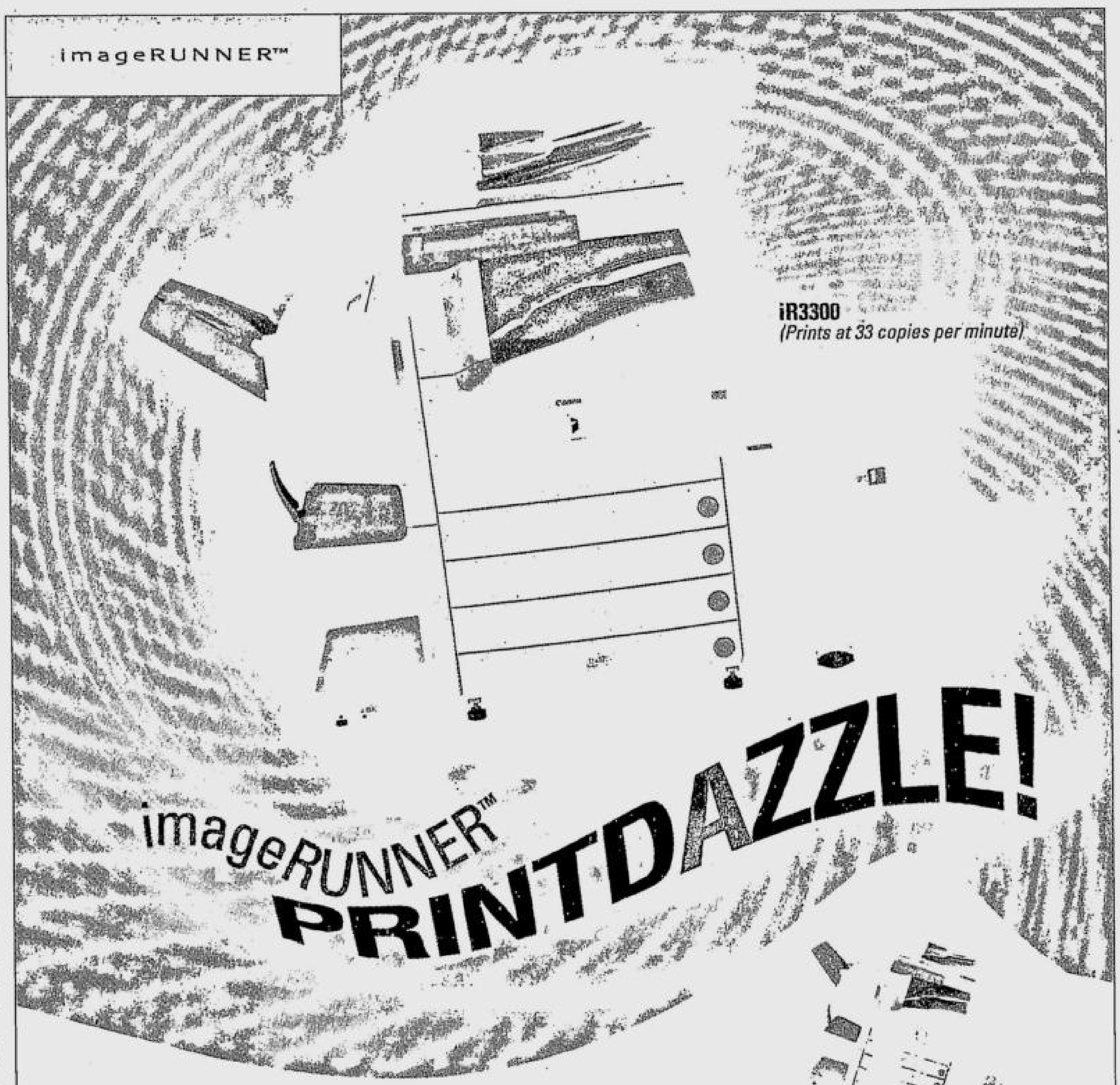
imageRUNNER™


iR3300
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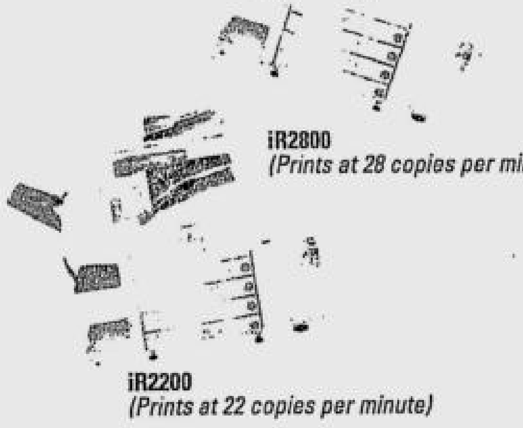

Get a Canon imageRUNNER 2200, 2800 or 3300 Digital Copier and get dazzled by these free stuff and more!

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PROMO PERIOD: APRIL 10 TO JUNE 30, 2003 Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0835 Series of 2003

Canon

Big prints demand . . .

From page 11

pendability and productivity even with heavy, continuous use.

Plus, you'll get features like a high-production Ink Tubing System that allows you to replace the inkbottles as they become empty, without interrupting your current printing job. Most of all, its interactive Operation Panel lets even first-time users access of all the printer's advanced functions quickly, easily.

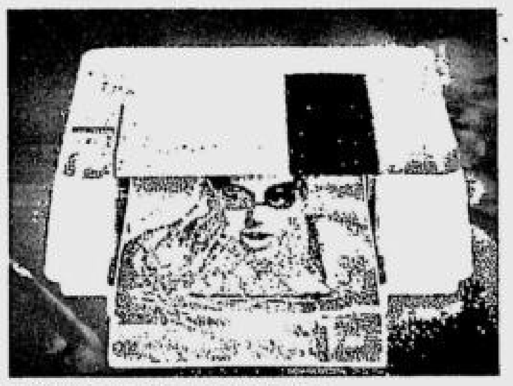
The BJ-W3000/W30: CAD Imaging Productivity and Quality

If you want reasonable pricing with superb functionality, you'll have both with the BJ-W3000 and BJ-W3000. Clocking A1 sized black and white drawings in less than 90 seconds, the BJ-W3000 and BJ-W3050 feature Canon's Drop Modulation Technology that gives the sharpest lines and crispest images produced at the fastest speeds in its class.

Meeting professional requirements

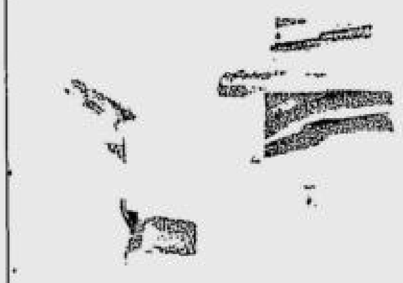
More than outstanding printing quality, the BJ-W3000 and BJ-W3050 deliver complete satisfaction especially for professional requirements of Architecture, Engineering, Construction and Geographical Information System (GIS) Users with these functions:

- Automatic layout function rotates plot images to best fit on available print media and eliminates paper waste
- Image control: Numerous functions such as Replot, Rotation, Copy and Y Mirror are ready to use
- Scale: To reduce or enlarge plot images from 1% to 999%—plot size is automatically adjusted proportionally to the loaded cut sheet paper
- Wide plotting area: Provides the largest print area in its class with margins as small as 5 mm on all sides.



W2200 graphic color printer

At Canon, the vision is to meet these two technological challenges at the same time. Canon's wide selection of large format printers by far have offered the solution and with amazing results



imageRunner 3300

Canon's Document Scanners . . .

From page 13

to 11" x 17" / A3-size flatbed scanning for utmost versatility. Quality is further delivered through capabilities of binary and grayscale scans at resolution from 100 dpi to 600 dpi.

Before decoding is another DR-4080U standard feature with Code39, Interleaved 2 of 5 and Codabar formats.

The DR-5020/5080C. Superior Versatility. Superior Performance.

When it comes to high-speed, high-volume scanning that produce excellent image data, the DR5020 and DR5080C are your best bets.

These two outstanding document scanners delivers efficient batch processing of voluminous data—as many as 500 standard Letter or A4-size paper sheets at once. A reliable sheet feeding system is also in place for the smooth completion of even the most challenging work.

An added bonus, the DR5020 and DR5080C also include double feed detection to prevent accidental feeding of two sheets at the same time.

Now A4 photo printing takes only one minute.
i950
Canon

i950
- Approx. 1 min A4 photo
- 4800 x 1200 dpi
- 2 pl ink droplets
- 6-colour borderless photo printer

P 18,900.00

i850
- 22ppm mono, 14ppm colour
- 4800 x 1200 dpi
- 2 & 5 pl ink droplets
- 4-colour borderless photo printer

P 12,500.00

i550
- 18ppm mono, 11ppm colour
- 4800 x 1200 dpi
- 5 pl ink droplets
- 4-colour borderless photo printer

P 8,995.00

And a finish so beautiful, it takes your breath away.

It won't take long for the world to notice Canon's new range of photo printers — the i550, i850 and i950. In fact, it will only take about a minute. That's how fast you can expect the i950 to print a true-to-life A4 photo. Incorporating the latest technology in photo printing, such as the new MicroFine Droplet Technology, these printers can output beautiful, high-quality photos at remarkable speeds. In addition, user-friendly software, such as ZoomBrowser EX, PhotoRecord and Easy PhotoPrint, allows you to store and print your digital photos easily. And with Canon's individual Think Tanks system, you only need to replace the colour that has run out, so you'll never waste ink. With Canon's new range of photo printers, you can be assured of high-definition print quality, exceptional performance and user-friendly innovations.

Canon
The best technology in print

Vivid Exif Print

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